

Fowler warns of more teacher training cuts

by Sue Reid

The Government's predicted figures of 60,000 teacher training places in 1980 might have to be reduced if the birthrate continues to fall, Mr Fowler, Minister of State for Higher Education, has warned.

He told a Manchester conference last week that in 1970 there were 114,000 places in colleges of education, but by 1980 no more than 60,000 places—including 12,500 for in-service and induction training—would be needed. If the birthrate continued to fall, and it showed no sign of doing otherwise, then the figure might be even lower.

Mr Fowler added that the Government was still planning for an overall rise in demand for higher education by 1981. Demand had levelled out at about 14 per cent of the age group and was expected to increase to 15 per cent in five years time.

But the declining demand for teacher training had affected the pattern of provision in higher education, and meant a greater necessity to convert places from one use to another. Mr Fowler added: "We are still carrying through the massive reorganisation of teacher education. From one point of view that is all to the good because teacher education will no longer be confined primarily to monotechnic institutions.

Nine support levy for jailed foreign students

Nine university student unions have agreed to back a World Universities Service scheme to help overseas students. Members will be asked to contribute \$10 a year to provide imprisoned students with regular visits to Britain.

The student unions have agreed to the voluntary scheme after the National Union of Students conference in London voted to approve the move during their debate on overseas students.

The nine unions are Bath; Bristol; Aberdeen; Chelsea College, University of London; St David's College, Lancaster; Keele; Sheffield; University College Swansea; and York. Mr Paul Hodges, of WUS, said that the scheme was aimed to help students held as political prisoners or those who were discriminated against on political or racial grounds.

Two major areas where WUS had helped students were Latin America and Southern Africa. The number of Chilean students on WUS grants had risen from six in 1973 to 350 students, and was expected to rise to 500 in the next academic year. WUS was also helping students from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and Uruguay.

WUS also helped students in South Africa and Rhodesia.

This summer the first candidates will be presenting themselves for the year's first round of English education. The World Universities Service (WUS) is a voluntary scheme which aims to provide regular visits to Britain for imprisoned students who are discriminated against on political or racial grounds.

Students are conceived as a group of people who are not yet fully formed, and who are in a state of flux. They are in a state of flux because they are in a state of flux. They are in a state of flux because they are in a state of flux. They are in a state of flux because they are in a state of flux.

This is not to say that the council has insisted upon an exact match between the content and aims of diploma and degree courses. Indeed some of the most innovative developments have been in the Diploma courses which are not

V-c calls for return to quinquennial planning

Errors made in predicting higher education numbers have disrupted quinquennial planning and made it easy for the Government to abandon it in the face of financial pressure, Dr Stephen Bragg, vice-chancellor of Brunel University, claimed this week.

In his annual report for 1975, Dr Bragg called for a return to the kind of continuity provided by quinquennial planning and warned that universities could not operate efficiently unless they knew well in advance what resources would be allocated to them.

He added: "The objectives of student numbers put forward in the White Paper, *A Framework for Expansion*, have proved to be over-estimates of the actual demand. Although there must still remain a huge latent potential demand from women students the actual number of United Kingdom applicants with the requisite qualifications has not continued to rise in the way that was assumed in 1972.

"This error has tended to discredit the quinquennial planning system and has made it easier for the Government to abandon it when the financial pressures became overwhelming."

Dr Bragg said the position of universities regarding student numbers had been exacerbated by the determination of the Department of Education and Science to expand the number of institutions which did some non-advanced work should develop this work as well as their higher education courses.

The demand for more places for 16 to 19-year-olds was now coming from more than one quarter, and the Government itself attached high priority to this.

Only 25 gay societies are left in British universities and colleges out of the 100 that flourished at the height of the National Union of Students' campaign for homosexual rights.

The decline of the gay societies in the past 18 months is attributed by the NUS to increasing harassment by college authorities and the reluctance of students to declare their homosexuality for fear of victimisation. Mr Trevor Phillips, a vice-president of the NUS, said this week that the gay societies had difficulties finding rooms for meetings and their papers were torn.

Mr Phillips, who has charge of the union's gay rights campaign, revealed the decline at the start of a week of action designed to publicise the discrimination to which homosexual students are subjected. Demonstrations in London, Manchester, Bath and Bristol were planned for this week with dances, text books in college libraries which give a false image of homosexuality will have correction slips put in them giving readers the facts about homosexuality from a gay society. Demonstrations in London, Manchester, Bath and Bristol were planned for this week with dances, text books in college libraries which give a false image of homosexuality will have correction slips put in them giving readers the facts about homosexuality from a gay society.

Mr Brian Gilmore, from Queens University, Belfast, said the police in Northern Ireland were stepping up a campaign of persecution, and



Dr Stephen Bragg

comparable to teachers in polytechnics appeared to reach higher grades at an earlier age.

However support staffing and accommodation in the universities were probably better than in the polytechnics, so it was unlikely that the actual cost per student in comparable disciplines differed much in the two institutions.

Dr Bragg criticized the artificial class distinctions and their divisive influence in education. It was time to abandon such distinctions and to provide a national overall plan for the whole system of higher education.

On the subject of student grants he said there was no evidence to suggest that students receiving full grants suffered serious financial difficulties. But there was ample evidence of hardship among students not receiving their full grants.

Universities urged to enrol more local part-timers

Universities could show the public that it was getting value for money by recruiting more part-time students, Dr Keith Hampson, secretary of the Conservative Education Committee, said last week.

He told the York University branch of the Association of University Teachers that by so doing the universities would broaden their higher education opportunities in local communities. They would benefit from an influx of more mature and experienced students, and also save money on student housing.

Universities had to be able to meet the country's changing needs in skills if Britain was to have a successful economic future and universities themselves were to survive, he said.

Bright sparks rewarded

The first polytechnic students to study part-time for a BSc degree in electrical engineering were awarded their degrees last week by Birmingham Polytechnic.

The course has been accepted by the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Council of Engineering Institutions to give exemption from the academic requirements for the status of chartered engineer.

Arts courses approved for Worcester

by David Hencke

Worcester College of Education is to be the first training college in Britain to offer a Council for National Academic Awards Bachelor of Arts honours programme.

A CNAA visiting party has approved honours programmes in five fields. They will start recruiting students for September 1977. The new three-year degrees cover studies in English and drama, history, geography, environmental science and mathematics.

Major courses will be offered in literary perspectives, drama, British history, human studies, earth studies, the physical environment, and ecosystems and man. Minor courses will be offered on rural settlement and land use, the modern city, and mathematical studies.

Students will be able to follow their own multi-disciplinary programme and be able to choose their own major course, one minor course and follow their own study plan to one of the major courses.

Each student will be attached to an advisory tutor who will be responsible for monitoring the student's progress over the three years and able to guide the student's work, taking a "coherent" programme.

The CNAA is also examining the prospects of awarding a Diploma in Higher Education after students have completed two years of the degree programme. The new BA course has been structured to allow students to leave and transfer to another institution after two years.

The council is also examining transfers to the new BA course from the college's Bachelor of Education degree course, which is approved last year.

Mr Edwin Pearson, principal of Worcester College, said this week: "We are delighted at the decision which we regard as a major breakthrough for colleges of education seeking to offer new courses validated by the CNAA."

"We have found it a difficult process to surmount but we believe it will not discourage other colleges planning to approach the CNAA for arts and sciences degrees."

OU methods 'could help Third World'

Use of the Open University's methods could do much to improve the conditions of the rural population in many countries, Mr Amador Malvar M'bow, director general of Unesco, said recently.

Receiving an honorary doctorate from the Open University in Belfast, Mr M'bow said: "If higher education can be made accessible, and relevant to the needs of the rural peoples, who represent 60 per cent of the total world population and as much as 75 per cent in many developing nations, the entire process of development could be greatly accelerated in all countries."

The diploma on which the first year of the degree course is based is the same but content fields are different. The final year may be preceded by a year of bridging course, or the second year of the degree course, or the third year of the degree course.

When the degree course to which the student is admitted has examination regulations which depend on the average of second and third year examinations, special arrangements in this first year of operation will need to be approved by the council for the final assessment of diplomas.

The first year of the degree course will be the third year of the diploma course unless the student has already been specifically approved. These proposals should be submitted to the council for consideration and approval. The first year of the degree course will be the third year of the diploma course unless the student has already been specifically approved. These proposals should be submitted to the council for consideration and approval.

OU social science course 'platform for political views'

by Frances Gibb

The Open University social sciences course, *Patterns of Inequality*, is "loaded" and a platform for blatantly political views, Mrs Caroline Cox, head of the sociology department at the Polytechnic of North London, has claimed.

Writing in the May issue of *Sussex*, the Open University's newspaper, Mrs Cox, who is deeply concerned about what she takes to be serious bias in presentation of material.

My overall impression is that the course units present a loaded representation which undermines the liberal position.

"There is a real difference between those who attempt to present a pluralist view as fairly as possible, and those who systematically use or abuse their privileged position to promulgate their own beliefs and to undermine and destroy alternative positions."

The course concentrates entirely on inequality in a capitalist society without including comparisons with socialist societies, she says. Great emphasis is given to the role of ideology in maintaining the power of the ruling class in capitalist societies but no mention is made of the use of the media and the education system in non-capitalist societies.

Various ways of analysing inequalities are presented, and all criticized except for the Marxist method. The issue is serious because many students will be attracted to a course of such fundamental human importance.

"There is a real danger that such students may be given a course which falls short of the basic canons of academic integrity and which substitutes, in places, politically partisan views and outright polemic."

Replying to Mrs Cox's criticisms in the same issue, Mr Andy Blowers, chairman of the course team, says the units were subjected to rigorous internal and external scrutiny. The course does attempt to present competing views, he says. Mrs Cox's own views, including those of Lord Blake and Sir Keith Joseph, were given in a radio programme which was part of it.

The material in the course as a whole must be considered if any charges of overt or deliberate bias are to be sustained, he writes. Social science is always political. The course attempts to develop a pluralist view of the social sciences, and to recognize rather than to suppress alternative views.

Mrs Cox seems to assume that members of the course team were of a unanimous and doctrinaire view, Mr Blowers says. It would be extremely difficult, even if desirable, to get a course team to act as one mind. The team had some 30 members who represented a wide range of academic and ideological views.

The critique of liberal ideology is to show how the prevailing ideology is a distortion of reality. Marxists thought. Marxist analysis will be criticized in later units, he says. The course does allow students the intellectual freedom to choose between different theoretical positions and one of its aims is to help students recognize the values implied in different views.

The statistics show a similar picture for students entering polytechnic colleges at further education. In 1974, more than 9 per cent of sixth formers in London and the south-east received full awards for courses at these colleges compared with only 6 per cent in the north and 7 per cent in the north-west, East Anglia and Yorkshire and Humberside.

But in the south-west, where the figure reached 9.3 per cent, a higher proportion of 18 and 19-year-olds received full grants to polytechnic and further education training students. Statistics of Education, Finance and Manpower, England and Wales 1974. Published by HMSO, Price £2.70.

Nottingham calls up graduate support

Nottingham University is mustering £23,000 to help students to help the university in its fight against inflation and recession.

Letters signed by the present vice-chancellor, Professor Basil Woodson, and the previous vice-chancellor, Professor John Sutcliffe, have been sent this week to all graduates saying "the university needs your help in its future."

It asks them to help by providing jobs for the university's graduates; give careers advice; help with research and grants for its lecturers.

The idea came from the university's standing committee of convocation, the body of former students.

Lord Crowther-Hunt keeps up his public criticism of the DES

'Ill-organized, ill-equipped planning and preoccupation with details'

by David Walker

The part played by the Department of Education and Science in the reorganization of teacher education has shown an "undue degree of centralization", Lord Crowther-Hunt, former Minister of State for higher education, told a House of Commons committee on Monday.

He said that the department should not have cared how places were allocated to individual colleges in, for example, the North East of England. The DES should have had no say in whether Brighton College of Education was merged with the polytechnic or the university. There was a decision that rightly belonged with the local authority.

The proper function of the DES was to decide global allocation for local authorities then let them make detailed decisions, he said.

Answering questions from Mr Michael Ward, Labour MP for Peterborough, a member of the Select Committee on Expenditure on education and the DES, Lord Crowther-Hunt proposed major changes in the relations of central and local government.

"There ought to be more people in the DES with experience of local government. Why are there not chief education officers of local authorities in the department? The career structure should be open with local government officials and civil servants applying for a common pool of jobs," he said.

Lord Crowther-Hunt's criticism of the DES, made in a series of articles and speeches, since he left the Government last month, focused this time on the department's inadequate planning.

As far as trying to suppress a report he had commissioned while at the DES on why 18 year olds chose particular courses. Fortunately the report, which revealed that most students wanted courses with a clear career commitment, had been leaked (*Times*, February 20) he said.

Speaking at the London conference of the Institute of Personnel Management, Lord Crowther-Hunt developed his vision of the type of student which universities and colleges ought to be producing. This was a "technical generalist": someone schooled in basic sciences and mathematics who was adaptable to changing technology and who could make a contribution to Britain's economic recovery.

"We have an absurd situation where universities are converting empty science and technology places to sociology and the arts. Sociology is not exactly the subject of which the industry has most need. However, the University Grants Committee system of finance means it is in the universities' interests to do these conversions," he said.

A generalist scientist or technologist on the model of the product of the French grandes écoles, was "infinitely" more adaptable than the generalist arts man, the historian or classics scholar. The Oxford Greats was nowadays irrelevant to industrial management.

Lord Crowther-Hunt's message was echoed later in the conference by Mr Alex Jarratt, chairman and chief executive of Reed International Ltd, the paper manufacturer and publishing firm.

The DES had taken its opposition

Long range planning is crucial to the success of any educational system. This should, therefore, be one of the most important functions of the DES. In my view, the department is ill-organized and ill-equipped for such a role. And its concept of planning is essentially passive and negative.

When I got to the DES what surprised me most was the absence of priorities. There was no reasoned case whether to spend money on one thing rather than another.

There was also a preoccupation with minute detail. The whole process of decision-making within the DES should be thrown open to Parliamentary scrutiny. The involvement of the House of Commons could act as a countervailing force to the teacher trade unions, who have too much power.

'Department tried to suppress report'

Lord Crowther-Hunt, last week criticized his former chief servant at the Department of Education for their opposition to even mild forms of manpower planning designed to match the output of graduates to the needs of society.

He contrasted their attitude unfavourably with that held in the Department of Employment which supported "broad category manpower budgeting" and claimed their view had already prevailed over Mr Fowler, his successor at the DES.

"Concern about matching the output of students to the needs of society as a whole is shared by everybody except the DES and some people in the universities," Lord Crowther-Hunt alleged.

The DES had taken its opposition

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'Resist redundancies' motion given priority

by David Hencke

A five point plan to increase educational provision, and a motion calling for a national campaign against education cuts, have been given priority for the first annual conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education to be held at Buxton, Derbyshire over the Spring bank holiday.

The motion on the cuts has been given priority by delegates. It calls for a national campaign against them, with co-operation between local trade unions and other sympathetic groups. It urges local branches to resist redundancies "by all possible means", and to ensure that colleges stay fully staffed.

The motion calling for increased educational provision, which has been given priority by the executive, calls for five areas for expansion. These are the 16-19 age group, recurrent education, induction and in-service programmes for teachers, trade union education, and advanced education (which calls for more students in science, mathematics and technology).

The NATFHE executive call for the number of teacher supply

places to rise to 480,000 rather than stop at about 464,000, and for the implementation of the recommendations of the advisory committee for the supply and training of teachers, which says that all further education lecturers should be trained.

Other motions cover salaries and college government. The salaries motion which was submitted before the recent agreement between the government and the TUC, expresses concern at the falling living standards of lecturers. It calls for a large flat-rate increase next year, the merging of lecturer 1 and 11 scales, the abolition of the efficiency requirement between lecturer 11 and senior lecturer scales, and a national pay scale for part-time staff.

The motion on college government calls for NATFHE representation on all college boards and committees, and the accountability of NATFHE representatives to their local union branches.

It says that all boards and committees should be decision-making bodies, and should be controlled by elected representatives. It calls for elected Trades Council representatives on all college boards.

National validation scheme supported

by Frances Gibb

A proposal that art foundation courses should have a national system of validation was overwhelmingly accepted by the National Standing Conference for Foundation Education in Art and Design in Derby this week.

The proposal was in the report of the standing conference's working party published last week (THESE, May 7).

Mr Ralph Selby, chairman of the conference and head of fine art at Derby College of Art and Technology, said: "This is the first time that foundation course staff have come together and by a substantial majority spoken with a concerted voice."

It was the first definitive statement on foundation courses for 13 years, he said. He hoped it would lead to positive action—particularly by the Department of Education and Science over the Gann Report of 1974.

The report's proposals which say that a national system of validation should be set up, together with a fully representative advisory body on foundation courses, are now to be sent to the DES, the Council for

National Academic Awards and other relevant bodies.

Voting at the conference was by 87 to six, with 10 abstentions, but there were some fears during the discussion about the effects of a national system of validation.

Several conference members doubted whether such a system would protect foundation courses. They felt that about one third of foundation courses would be closed: validation might bring with it mandatory grants for foundation course students, and many local authorities, unable to afford the extra money, would close the courses.

Mr Peter Williams, principal of Lincoln College of Art, and chairman of the working party, said there were three main reasons for recommending validation.

First, if the conference did not agree a system, one would be imposed from outside. Second, students would be confused. Once recognized, the foundation course would allow them to go on to other courses in polytechnics and universities, apart from art and design courses. He hoped foundation courses would be seen as an alternative to the two A-level entry to universities.

Third, validation would ease friction between those offering foundation courses and those offering BA

courses in art and design, since many BA centres were unhappy about the preparation given to art students, and foundation course lecturers were unhappy about the lack of information provided by the BA staff.

The working party opposed validation by visiting panels. Courses would receive recognition according to how successful they were in getting students on to further courses.

An other case for validation was survival, Mr Selby said. Foundation courses were very vulnerable, in the face of accusations from some BA centres that their standards were declining.

The big problem is that we do not have any official standing. We don't exist, therefore we can be cut out just like that."

Mr Ben Cooke, assistant director of Leicester Polytechnic, agreed that foundation courses should be validated by the CNA. If universities could validate O and A foundation courses, the CNA could validate art foundation courses.

Mr Peter Welton, dean of creative arts at Crewe and Alsager College of Higher Education, said his college only took 10 per cent of art students from foundation courses. The courses would depend on changing the provision.

Don's diary

City of words

Vacation time is conference time. I attended a one-day conference on "The Central Role of Language" organized by the Oxford Society for Applied Studies in Education. The first lecture was given by a member of the Bullock committee, whose report, "A Language for Life" was published in 1975. It criticized some of the widely used tests of reading ability, in which children were supposed to finish incomplete sentences.

The examples of the somewhat crude tests of literacy given in the course of the lecture do not seem to be related to the everyday uses of language. One suspects that the "standards" men set much store by such tests and value a command of the obscure uses of language more than fluency in talking about everyday problems.

The very application of such tests and the notion of achieving some absolute standard seems quite out of keeping with the haphazard development of language. As Wittgenstein said "Our language can be seen as an ancient city: a maze of little streets and squares, of old houses and new houses, and of houses with additions from various periods; and this surrounded by a multitude of new boroughs with straight regular streets and uniform houses."

I began to think about the command of language students would have when they came up to university to read theology or philosophy and how this related to tests for literacy and the teaching of English in schools. They would need, first of all to appreciate Wittgenstein's metaphor, to be aware of our language as a rich, varied, growing, and yet see that the "suburbs" of our language are connected with the ancient city.

They need to be aware of the multiplicity of kinds of word and sentence in the language. The ability to grasp the various uses of a word, for example, is essential. In which those users are related to each other is essential. Only then will the student be able to unravel the implications of the use of some important, central concept in our language and be able to grasp these in a concrete way. Only then can the student begin to have a suitably sceptical approach to theological or philosophical uses of language, and to suspect that their language is perhaps "going on holiday."

I am impressed by the hard, active thought behind the given to every aspect of the curriculum in order to ensure this kind of literacy. Planning and developing a curriculum in this way so that the child's ability to use his language, naturally, creatively, sensitively, with fluency in practical writing, means that staff must be willing and able to ask fundamental questions about the meaning of literacy, and ready to enter their whole approach radically in the light of answers to these questions.

This approach to literacy has important implications for the curriculum as a whole, and for staff development. Staff have to be willing to review their work and to regard themselves as part of a teaching team.

University teaching, with its emphasis on the individual, especially in the sciences, encourages a perhaps over-individualistic approach, and isolates work. This can lead to fragmentation of courses leading to a degree and a lack of a coherent, overall pattern for a three-year degree course.

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find the minutes for the last senate meeting, sent to me because I am one of the non-professional representatives on senate from the arts faculty.

The addition of student and non-professional representatives to faculty boards, senate and council was the university's response to student unrest of the late 1960s but it does not redistribute decision-making powers between professional and non-professional staff, and student representation is generally too small to make a significant difference.

On the academic side, however, research ability is not an adequate measure of a person's ability to handle managerial functions or to deal with personal relationships amongst staff, nor does research experience provide adequate training for the demands of the managerial role. Even small departments require the managerial expertise of junior management in industry.

Lack of expertise in the management of the often expensive resources of a department, or lack of skill in directing the development strategy for a department, or in dealing with interpersonal relationships can cause considerable frustration amongst staff and students, or simply result in expensive mistakes. Such problems can be intensified in a university with a rigidly departmentalized structure, since so much turns on the ability of one person.

A less rigidly departmentalized and hierarchical structure, and also allow for growth for individual members of staff, and greater freedom to develop and pursue their academic interests. Perhaps an interdisciplinary basis, as these may change in the course of their university careers.

It is sometimes suggested that academics do not want, and should not want, to be involved in democratic, that is, in time-wasting committees. They should be free, untrammelled by practical considerations, to pursue their research. But the frustration which arises from being excluded from decision-making can be equally time-wasting.

If all members of staff were obliged to take responsibility for the policy of the university, as opposed to merely feeling responsible, they might then realize that universities do not exist in a vacuum.

Woman's work

My senate minutes include the provision statistics of full-time students for October, 1975. The faculty of medicine has almost equal numbers, 60 men and 58 women. In the faculty of science, 54 men and 52 women. Some of the other faculties are just as egalitarian, such as veterinary science, dentistry and law, but in others such as science (359 men to 187 women) and engineering (193 men to 86 women) the balance is skewed.

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Examinations should be impartial tests of ability



IVOR CREWE

I have one vivid memory of taking examinations as a student. It was my only and very modest gesture of defiance against established authority. The regulations at Oxford required candidates to wear "sub-fac" which was as uncomfortable as it sounds: dark suit, white shirt, black gown and bow tie, would you believe it.

The sun streamed on to our desks. It was hot and sticky so I took off my gown and jacket. There were 300 of us in the one hall and for a while the air was moment I was a white blot on a perfect pattern of black. Then from all corners invigilators descended upon me, insisting on regulation sub-fac. Protest, negotiation and finally compromise: I kept my gown on I could dispense with the jacket.

Examinations are the timid don's revenge; a delight for every student, a nightmare for every invigilator. The invigilator says, and the serried formation of watched, silent, numbered and sometimes nervous victims start writing. Teacher and taught change into examiner and examinee: gentle authority crystallizing momentarily into overt power.

So I do not blame students for hating the examination ritual nor vulgarly attribute their doing so to laziness or the lack of intellectual vigour. Indeed, it has always surprised me that the formal examination survived the student protest movement almost entirely unscathed.

I make these remarks as a preamble to the NUS' campaign to abolish all competitive examinations and course grades. At their recent Llandudno conference they passed this motion: "Formal examinations mainly test candidates' assimilation and recall abilities and performance in false stress conditions. They bear no direct relation to research abilities or to aptitude for certain areas of employment. Continuous assessment can provide more opportunities for the student to demonstrate true ability and should form an integral part of education."

These are serious and reasonably expressed objections, if converted into a practical programme of action, one, and as such they deserve an equally serious although perhaps no less conventional response.

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Students turn trade policy protest into pantomime

by Jane Feinmann

Students who were protesting against British Government policy at the UN Conference on Trade and Development, now being held in Nairobi, delivered a letter to 10 Downing Street and lobbied MPs during a national day of action last Saturday.

The New Economic Action Group which includes Third World First Christian Aid and World University Service, used two pantomime horses to deliver the letter. Students gave out leaflets which said: "This is straight from the horse's mouth" and "We will not take much for an answer."

The letter, addressed to Mr James Callaghan, said: "For the last few weeks you have been feverishly working to try to negotiate a second pay deal. We feel it would have been better if you had spent this energy preparing to come to terms with the developing nations at UNCTAD."

The protest continued at the Sey-

mour Hall, where Judith Hart, MP, said that the US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's plan for an industrial resources bank was just looking after the multinational companies and protecting private investments.

She said there was no longer any EEC policy on UNCTAD because all EEC countries except for West Germany and the UK had now gone at least some way to supporting the developing nations and that only Germany, the UK and the USA were now sticking together to support the rich countries' interests.

NAG, set up last February to arouse interest in UNCTAD, has decided to continue its activities when the new university term begins in September. It has received considerable support from university unions—about 100 groups were active during the campaign and many of these were people not normally associated with third world activities, and it has also received unexpected attention from the Government.

Too many new Scots teachers

Less than 3,000 jobs will be available in Scotland for the 5,472 students leaving teacher training courses this summer, according to a survey published by the Scottish Educational Journal, the newspaper of the Educational Institute of Scotland.

The survey shows that a total of 1,855 diplomas will have to compete for 1,002 primary posts and only 1,960 secondary posts are available for 2,517 applicants.

Figures supplied by education authorities and colleges are provisional but no great changes are expected by July.

"Many regional authorities have been inundated with applications for posts as students apply to some or all of them. Priority is being given in the regions to students whose homes are in the area, but many will be unable to find posts," says the report.

Ms Margaret Jackson, Parliamentary under-secretary of state

at the Department of Education and Science, has appealed for more applicants to train as craft and design teachers.

Handcraft courses are one of the few courses that the DES is safeguarding against further cut-backs because of the national shortage.

The DES has approved the establishment of a federal ecumenical college to be called the Liverpool Institute of Higher Education.

The three colleges, one Anglican and two Roman Catholic, are Christ's, St Katherine's and Notre Dame colleges of education. They plan to offer a new range of Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts degrees validated by Liverpool University.

The DES approved earlier the creation of a Liverpool College of Higher Education, created from C. F. Mott and Ethel Wormald colleges of education, both local authority colleges.

V-c warns that cuts could harm research

Dr Frank Thistlethwaite, vice-chancellor of the University of East Anglia, has criticized the Government's recent expenditure cuts, with its call for further economies in higher education, as alarming.

He has warned that the high standards of teaching, scholarship and research which Britain has achieved could be in jeopardy unless the Government makes a certain minimum financial provision.

In his annual report to the university council earlier this week, Dr Thistlethwaite said that the University Grants Committee award to the university for the coming academic year would allow for some modest development. Schools in the university planning to admit more students in October would be able to recruit new faculty and support staff.

He added: "This opportunity to move forward next year cannot disguise the underlying trends which point to a further deterioration in what is already a critical situation for universities."

"Although we do not have the benefit of any meaningful planning for ourselves, the recently published White Paper outlines the Government's expectations."

"The forecast of the number of full-time higher and further education students in 1981 has been cut for the second time in four years, and that the percentage of the 16-19 age group entering higher education will increase only marginally during the next five years," he said.

There would be little scope for increasing total staff numbers after 1977, and the White Paper had called for a progressively more effective use of resources.

Dr Thistlethwaite said: "As the White Paper deals with further and higher education it is not possible to say what the precise effects on universities will be. But the general picture is bleak enough, and coming as it does after a period during which we have already achieved considerable economies in operating standards, it is somewhat alarming."

"This country has reason to be proud of the universities and of the high standards of teaching, scholarship and research which reside in them. But such standards cannot be maintained unless a certain minimum financial provision is made."

Dr Thistlethwaite said that at a time of such difficulties, research in universities had traditionally been a balance between research and teaching, but at a time of such difficulties a balance between research and teaching is made.

The application of research and the pursuit of scholarship in universities is an investment for the future of the country. The problems of the present generation, he said, should not be allowed to destroy, he said.

Dr Judd refuses to call in the troops

His refusal to call in the troops was a London police officer's comment on the General Strike.

Britain's greatest industrial dispute was played out in the ante-rooms of Downing Street and the London headquarters of a worried TUC 50 years ago this month. The conflict, viewed with trepidation by Britain's middle classes and Western Europe as a whole, boasted an epic climax with Mr Stanley Baldwin, then Prime Minister, and Mr J. D. Judd, then Secretary of the TUC, playing the main roles.

This complexity of colourful characters has kept the debate on the strike alive and heated for the last five decades. It was in the minds of many that the second world war began with the General Strike. The TUC's decision to call in the troops, and the Prime Minister's decision to call in the troops, were the main events of the strike.

The game, played over five hours, was an interesting experiment. The clock was turned back to May 1926, with seven students and six lecturers assigned as the main characters of the nine-day strike.

Once the scene was set in a lecture room in the polytechnic's history department, the 13 players were briefed to cope with their individual roles as they wished. The majority had already researched

their characters but were asked to make decisions believed to be best in the various situations that arose.

With each half hour representing a day of the 1926 conflict, events unfolded away from reality during the second day when the TUC's Churchill played by Mr Joe O'Brien, a 21-year-old student, called on the prime minister to bring in the troops, and received an immediate rebuff.

Churchill, no doubt mindful of his recent move across the House

of Commons, was asked to make decisions believed to be best in the various situations that arose. Baldwin, played by Dr Denis Judd, head of the history department, was pushed into taking a more moderate stance by this call. But after the game Dr Judd said that his key decision not to bring in the troops, in direct conflict with

the events of the real strike, was made with the character of Baldwin in mind, and not by any direct response to the cry for blood from the chancellor.

With the troops out of the game the unofficial strike committee, headed by Mr Peter Selman, a lecturer in the college's teaching studies department, began to play a primary role. The committee's strength directly influenced the game, which ended with the committee seizing the BBC—a complete reversal of the true situation when the BBC was firmly controlled by the Government—and launching a strike.

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Management tasks

On holding through the strike, my desk, during the vacation, I

مكتبة الأصل

Buffeted by raging and irresistible torrents

"Tendencies scarcely perceptible today will be much accentuated tomorrow. They trickles will become raging and irresistible torrents." Thus spoke Dr Albert Sloman, the vice-chancellor of Essex University, in those fateful lectures to the staff, the 1963 Reith lectures.

The irony of that statement requires no labouring today. Yet Essex University (like Warwick) has had a boom off course, not so much by the growth of student assertiveness that was undreamt of by its founders, but by the failure of British higher education to continue expanding at the pace envisaged in the wake of the Robbins Report.

The first departure from tradition mentioned in the Reith lectures was the decision to build a large university. When the lectures were published by the BBC, the back inside cover showed a model development plan of the university, which included 28 of Essex's notorious and awe-inspiring high-rise residential blocks—enough to put Blake's dark Satanic mills eternally to shame.

At Warwick, the total of 15,000 or 20,000 students was always faintly hypothetical and largely dictated by optimism; at Essex, it was an explicit part of the founding ideology. The philosophy of the Reith lectures was that big is beautiful.

Dr Sloman's explanation of the scale and character of modern research call for such a range of skills and for equipment so complex and so expensive that scientists working independently and alone have given way to teams of specialists, each making his own contribution of information and techniques.

As a result, students and universities will in the future have to be very much bigger. "Departments need to be big to build up effective research teams to justify the expense of the latest equipment and to cover all the branches of a particular subject. Universities in turn will need to be big to accommodate big departments covering the generous range of studies expected of them."

Dr Sloman wanted a university that, while growing big, would still "preserve a powerful sense of unity". The site plan was one of "startling compactness" and its density "without precedent in this country". The plan was for a "university town, not for some pavilions in a park". A modern university, said Dr Sloman, should have 25 students to the acre. "What is good enough for California is surely good enough for crowded England."

In the perspective of the Reith lectures, it made no sense to have a university with, at the outset, a wide range of subjects. Big departments meant, at first, few departments. And, if Essex was to establish the national and international reputation it desired, the departments had to be in relatively new, potentially expanding areas—the raging and irresistible torrents of the next two decades.

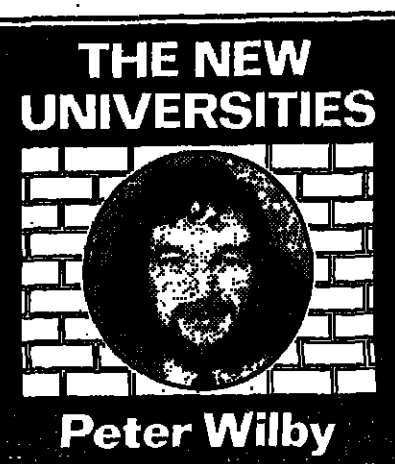
So Essex started with just seven departments (even now, it has only 14) and no biology, no philosophy, and, in Britain's oldest recorded town, no history. Inevitably, the university was based on the non-vocational social sciences, then the most rapidly growing subjects of all. Much of the humanities and social science work was to concentrate on Latin America, North America and the Soviet Union—areas that were poorly represented in British universities. The application of modern techniques to the social sciences was to be prominent. The new subjects of computer science and electronics were the main themes on the technology side.

It was, said Dr Sloman in the Reith lectures, the Montgomery technique. "Attack on a narrow front and where there is a breakthrough, go hell-bent ahead." And Essex went hell-bent ahead for strong research. The vice-chancellor talked of postgraduate research rising up to a third of the student population.

"The one-storey British university with graduate studies as a kind of graduate exorcism will have to be replaced by a two-storey structure." By its third year, faster even than Sussex, Essex had already topped the national average for the ratio of graduates to undergraduates.

The university's growth was not to stop at a modest level. It was to go on and on into a multiplicity of fields and just as the storm must become an oak, so Essex seems to reveal in miniature the problems as well as the merits of an LSE or a Berkeley. "The task was of a critical mass." But while this is highly relevant to the needs of the graduate scholar, it is less so to the needs of the undergraduate. It is an unfortunate cliché of academic discussion that the best teachers are those who are advancing the frontiers of their subject. This strategy, student is more interested in someone who can consolidate his understanding of his central planks.

The Essex graduate population—at just over 20 per cent of the student total—has fallen only a little short of its founders' aspirations. To this day, the emphasis on research is striking. It is one of the four new universities that gets a higher than average proportion of its income from research grants and contracts. The vice-chancellor's annual reports invariably include a long eulogy to the research prowess of his staff—the sheer



Peter Wilby

productivity of our members is by any standards exceptional."

The Essex Ordinances say that the duty of the academic staff is to "devote themselves by research and publication to the advancement of knowledge in their subjects" (my italics). Tenure, traditionally taken very seriously at Essex, is based on evidence of contribution to scholarship.

One young lecturer felt that, in recent years, there has been a stronger emphasis in tenure decisions on teaching. Another junior academic thought that the "publish or perish" syndrome might die with the difficulties of finding publishers who can afford to print. A contemporary in another department, however, said that, to him, "it is research, teaching, administration—in that order." He added: "You have to do your teaching, of course, but I don't feel that if I brushed students off when they came to see me outside formal classes that it would do me any harm at all."

Among the more senior staff, the enthusiasm for research sometimes borders on fanaticism. Essex professors will tell you the number of books members of their departments have published, not the number of first-class degrees their students have achieved.

Professor Jean Blondel, an influential founder of the innovative school of comparative studies and chairman of a working party that has recently produced an eloquent defence and re-statement of the university's original interdisciplinary aims, refused to talk to me about undergraduate studies. Only graduate work, he implied, was of any significance.

Another founding professor said that he hadn't read the Reith lectures until some time after his appointment. "I don't think many people came because of the Essex theology or because it was a great educational experiment. I was neither against it nor for it. It just didn't register."

Yet both this professor (who asked not to be quoted) and Jean Blondel are stimulating teachers of undergraduates and have put a lot of thought and energy into the Essex curriculum. Their remarks, I suspect, reflect institutional rather than personal priorities. Perhaps, too, the university's reputation for student unrest has persuaded its members that the only way to justify themselves to the outside world is to emphasize their solid achievements at the research level—the Social Science Research Council survey archive, Professor Blondel's European Commission for Political Research (a reflection of the university's internationalist outlook), the Fluid Mechanics Research Institute, the sociology department's pioneering work in urban poverty.

Essex architecture—"no physical heart, nowhere you can say life is going on."



Based on the philosophy of big is beautiful Essex has been shaken by the general failure to match post-Robbins expansion ideals

Eighty per cent of the Essex graduates are on taught courses and there is no denying that many of them, such as the refresher course in telecommunications and the course in applied linguistics taken by many older teachers, are socially useful.

But Lord Annan, in his report on the university's troubles in 1974, found many of the lecturers who were concerned that "the man who is really prepared to devote time to students is penalized and has less chance of promotion than one who amasses a pile of publications." "Essex may be unusual among new universities in demanding from young lecturers evidence of completed research within five years of employment. For some young lecturers in the humanities this is a tall order particularly if they have to spend a sizable part of those first years preparing courses of lectures or seminars, and a man who throws himself into his teaching can find himself a prey to conflicting interests."

"Nor is the matter helped if the senior staff do not give a lead in the matter: if they are seen by the young lecturers to be skimping teaching in favour of their own research, it is surprising that the younger lecturers should be so ready to do so." Lord Annan heard instances of students, particularly in the first year, having essays returned to them without any written comments.

One matter that needed "watching", according to Lord Annan, was the generous study and sabbatical leave at Essex. This, again, was a component of the founding ideology—in the Reith lectures, Dr Sloman identified generous leave of absence as one of the advantages of big departments. Essex staff are entitled to a term of study leave after each six terms' service, with the curiously stated condition that "a considerable portion of the study leave must be spent on study."

Professor Ian Proudman, the pro-vice-chancellor (academic), defended study leave but agreed that it was sometimes too fragmented—"a term here, a term there"—and that Essex had possibly gone too far in granting extended (unpaid) leave of absence. Dr Sloman said that limiting study leave "would strike at the heart of what the institution is about" but agreed that the weakness was that "we can't get the continuity of administrative help."

The Annan Report identified the lack of a strong "front bench" providing continuity of leadership as one of the university's problems. "Again and again correspondents told me that a number of those who should lead and shoulder responsibilities do not do so and even spend little time in their departments."

The major offices—school deans and heads of department—were held for brief periods;

on the face of it, a democratic innovation in its results, possibly more authoritarian. As the leading academic staff body on the administrative staff, the committee, the sole remaining figure in the vice-chancellor's office, Dr Sloman was described by Harold Perkins, in his study of the universities in 1969 for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as a vice-chancellor "in the tradition of a business tycoon, closely involved in all decision-making and delegating as little as possible."

Lord Annan pointed out that "a vice-chancellor is not a managing director or executive chairman of a company" and "does not resemble that of a university commercial firm." There was a need, he said, for "far greater delegation of authority."

Since 1974 Essex has appointed three pro-vice-chancellors, with three-year periods of office. Previously, there was only one pro-vice-chancellor, holding office for five years, and this change represents the university's most important response to Lord Annan. Several lecturers thought that the administration was now far more accessible. Dr Adrian Sinfield, dean of the school of social studies, thought the pro-vice-chancellor was in danger of overshadowing the actual work.

Another important response to Lord Annan (though this was already on its way in 1974) was the decision to accept the need for separate student union accommodation. Essex was created on the principle of no barriers of any kind between students and staff, between lecturers and work, and between work and leisure. Even campus recreation was to be open to all, and the university opened the doors to the public. The former were refused permanent room by the Senate in 1965 and told by Dr Sloman to "use the common rooms, coffee bars and restaurant."

The careers officers were to be situated individually to each of the three faculties of study. That experiment, said Lord Annan, was "a failure." The experiment was quickly abandoned because "employment is difficult to keep in touch with us all became too oriented to specific careers. But the innovation of enlisting the careers service to advise students on their subject choice at the end of the first year has survived—about 20 per cent of us," says Mr Townsend.

Though Lord Annan wrote that "a social community is not monolithic" and "did no good to pretend that it was," Dr Sloman still believes in aspiring to a single community, you get divisions anyway. An institution should try to break them down and reinforce them.

It was the students, rather than the staff who long opposed a separate student union building, according to Professor John Ryland, pro-vice-chancellor (services). "I decided not to have a union was a mistake shown years after we opened. A single common room for all students, for example, economics, government and sociology made a net gain of 16 students from a total second-year entry of 80 who had started in mathematical studies."

Some departments, reported Professor Blondel's recent working party, have found that common first-year common rooms involving the disciplines were seen to be virtually single-subject literature degree is the dominant degree scheme. As in all the new universities, few students carry out their intentions of taking joint degrees—in 1974-75, 30 out of 85 students who had said, on entry, they would take a degree transfered to single-subject courses in the second year.

Half the first-year work comprises either an introductory course for area specialization or subject-based course. The enlightenment is the sole survivor of the old common first year. And it is a source of much dissatisfaction among both students and lecturers. "It's badly planned," said a student. "You get lecturers who are supposed to introduce it talking about the end of the Enlightenment." A young lecturer, "commod" was later told, into teaching the course—said that "it wastes my energies and abilities" and he doubted that there was ever an Enlightenment, anyway. The laconic judgment of Marcel Tatham, the current school dean, was that "about half the students come on to the course" and that, though lecturers habitually complained that the course was outside their normal fields, it was a good thing to put them in the position of learners. "The trouble is that students come expecting lecturers to pontificate and they find it hard to cope."

Simon Collier quotes Thomas Carlyle as an epitaph for comparative studies: "A constitution can be built, there are constitutions in the air, but the faithful difficulty is that of getting men to come and live in them." The temptation is to apply that commentary to Essex as a whole.

Nevertheless, Professor Blondel's working party thought that working towards "a common vision of the university's future, even though it found the university 'profoundly divided' on the value of schools, as well as on the first-year courses, it encountered a 'counsel of despair' in which it was agreed that the university, particularly in view of its relative unpopularity, could not make a practical stand against the specialization that was deeply rooted in the schools. The report, however, stated, 'The case for maintaining specialization for the individual student is strong. It is a choice that should be exercised only after they have been able to appreciate more fully the discipline which they wish to study by

students' private affairs, failed to perceive that students might wish to interfere with the university's public affairs. True, the students were granted representation on committees—generous by most standards—but Ron Atkin, lecturer in mathematics, has concluded, after considering a mathematical model of the university's operations, that the system is like a medieval citadel from which most staff and students are excluded.

The lower committees have insufficient autonomy and, as suggestions travel up the hierarchy (or, in Mr Atkin's terms, towards the centre of the citadel) seeking approval, they encounter committees with little or no student representation and, as Lord Annan put it, are "eaten alive."

Several members of the university have suggested that what the students really need is some separate negotiating power with the higher authorities outside the committee structure. But in the original conception of the university that would have been constitutionally tautologous—in a sense, the students would have been negotiating with themselves.

Another weakness of the committee structure, according to Mr Atkin, is that the departments, the real centres of power, are not formally part of it: the deans of the schools more frequently have ex officio seats on committees than departmental chairmen. As at Warwick, East Anglia and Sussex, the relationship between schools and departments is ambiguous, perhaps deliberately so. Like Sussex, Essex has subjects that can be members of more than one school: sociology is in social, comparative and mathematical studies, while Essex recognizes its departments from the beginning, and the academic budget is divided among them, not among the schools of study.

The first three schools were comparative studies, social studies and physical sciences. Mathematics was added later, after the university opened and there have been no additions since. Dr Sloman said in the Reith lectures: "Knowledge is undivided. It cannot be fitted neatly into departmental pigeonholes. And although there are points of intensity, the allocation of these subjects to isolated and self-sufficient departments has discouraged the development of areas that fall between them." The multidisciplinary work was to be highly integrated: "The student will not be left to make sense himself out of a collection of courses." Discard the most explicit part of the interdisciplinary philosophy was that students should be admitted to schools, not to departments, and that each school should offer its own common first-year course. Though entrants would normally name an intended specialization, they would be free to change it up to the beginning of the second year.

The scheme's value to students is illustrated by the proportions changing their decisions on specialization at the end of the first year: about 50 per cent in comparative studies, 30 per cent in social studies, and 20 per cent in mathematical studies. The problem, exacerbated by Essex's modest success in minimizing science barriers through building a strong bridge in mathematics, is that students tend to drift away from the sciences. In 1974, for example, economics, government and sociology made a net gain of 16 students from a total second-year entry of 80 who had started in mathematical studies.

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Sloman

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Annan

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being confronted with neighbouring disciplines in which they might also have an interest; this has always been part of the rationale of the common first years—and the point should be restated and indeed strengthened."

To some extent, Essex can provide opportunities to study adjacent subjects within departments. Though the departments are few, large and powerful, they are broadly based. "A large department can make off-beat appointments," said Professor Proudman. "And that can be a more effective way of cross-fertilization."

Sociology includes social historians, social psychologists, lawyers, former mathematicians and former philosophers. Engineering has lecturers with medical qualifications. The members of the history department were originally in literature. The core courses in sociology, combining philosophy, theory and methodology, is an example of the kind of integrated course that can arise in a broad-based department.

But, at undergraduate level, Essex's two major attempts to bring traditional subjects together in a new relationship have largely failed. The first was comparative studies. The second was the attempt to relate mathematics closely both to the physical and social sciences, in such courses as mathematical economics, mathematics and politics, mathematical computation and mathematical chemistry. In recent years, these courses have recruited barely half-a-dozen students between them and one variant, mathematics and sociology, no longer listed in the current prospectus.

The problem, of course, has been the decline in the number of students with an understanding of or liking for mathematics. With so many of its lecturers having an interest in the applications of mathematics to their own subjects, Essex must be one of the most mathematical universities in the country and the mathematics department itself is one of the few with its own laboratories. "We are a mathematical university without many mathematical students," said Professor Proudman. "We have had to realize our time in this field mainly in research and graduate work."

No account of Essex can be complete without some discussion of its extraordinary buildings. A university of 3,000, on a site envisaged for 15,000, inevitably has its difficulties. But, if the gaping holes of Warwick's campus seem aesthetically untidy and inconvenient, the tight concentration of the Essex buildings, stranded in the middle of spacious Constable country, seems utterly absurd.

The visitor enters through the bowels of the institution, through a dank, threatening passageway of pipes and delivery points, from which you climb to the light of day, more in hope than of expectation of emerging at some point close to your intended destination. There is no front door, only a tradesman's entrance. And Essex's lake, ducks and greenery are in a limbo outside the main complex of buildings, so that most visitors are unlikely even to notice them. The total effect is as if someone had built an underground railway network in Melton Mowbray.

The university architect described his buildings as "an experiment in simple industrial facades to enclose the maximum amount of space." The result is as dull as it sounds. Professor Peter Townsend, as pro-vice-chancellor (social) is in charge of an attempt to brighten up the campus. Coloured panels, pavement chessboards, plant life, concrete sculpture and murals are appearing among the grey concrete. The wall of Barclay's Bank is to acquire a phoenix.

But the major weakness of the Essex buildings is not their drabness but what has been described as their "deliberately weak spatial symbolism." Stan Cohen, professor of sociology, said: "There is no physical heart to the place, nowhere that you can say that life is going on." The Annan Report commented: "No student or staff member really feels that 'here' is where he belongs, works, has his home and his loyalty. Some departments are corridors with no identity except a different coat of paint."

As a long analysis in the *Architectural Journal* in 1972 pointed out, the campus lacks most natural social meeting-points, places to congregate and to talk. Designed like a small Italian city with piazzas, Essex has the disadvantage of being in an English, not an Italian, climate. (And are architects never told that the academic year covers only a fraction of the English summer?)

For all victors, most students and even some founding professors, Essex is impossible to find your way around. Seeking out sociology, you may end up at the chemistry delivery point, in danger of being locked up in a laboratory cupboard. Confidently assuming that room number 48.N.6A is round the next corner, you are likely to collide with a brick wall. So inscrutable is the room-numbering system that, "in response to repeated requests from readers," the university paper recently published a 300-word explanation on it. Among other advice, it enlightened the university's members that "two-part numbers are really three-part numbers."

"I've no idea what goes on over there," said a professor, waving vaguely at a building standing directly outside the window of his office that he has occupied for 10 years. Essex is a university that lacks fixed points of reference. It was founded with no rules and no barriers, with young subjects and young men.

Dr Sloman, on his appointment, was the youngest vice-chancellor in British university history. Its academic stars—Professors David King, Blondel, Townsend, MacIntyre and Lipsey—were all under 40 when appointed. Its history, so far, is largely that of a search for identity, security and stability. That search will continue for years to come.



Peter Townsend

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Doughborough
DCS: Professor H. Moiz, department of Applied Physiology, University of Straburg.
DTECH: Sir Arnold Hall, chairman and managing director, Hawker Siddeley Group Ltd.; Mr G. N. Housfield, director of medical systems section, Government Research Laboratories, RML Ltd.
LITD: Lord Plowden, chairman, Television Investments Ltd.; Lady Prouse, Director, Independent Broadcasting Authority.
MA: M. Andrew Argant, Mayor of Epinal, France; Rev Father A. L. Basil, Roman Catholic chaplain to the university; Mr J. H. Middleton, the university security officer.
MTech: Mr J. P. Tucker, former president, Past Students' Association.

Ulster
LITD: Rev R. R. Darby, director, Corrymeela Community; Dr P. C. Mellon, director of the Scottish Trust; Rt Hon the Lord Agnew of Uppingham, chairman of the Ulster Agency; Sir C. H. Widdows, chairman of the University of Ulster.
DSC: Sir A. W. Morrison, vice-chancellor of the University of Kent.

**Noticeboard is compiled
by Myrna Monsurate
and Patricia Santinelli**

Saturday May 15 15.00 Renaissance and Reformation: The

Monday May 17

Wednesday May 19

10.45 • Statistical sources : Laboratoire

The lost art of participation in chorale singing

**Boris Ford discusses
two recent performances
of J. S. Bach's
St. Matthew Passion**

On Good Friday, 1729, there were performed at the same hour Leipzig two new St. Matthew Passions. One, probably the more successful one, was by the candidate, Johann Sebastian Bach, who was popular and musically "progressive" New Church, and the other was by the cantor of the Church of St. Thomas. According to a substantial account, a "Cold widow of the name of Anna" was present, and said: "God help us! surely that was comedy." At a late date, she fell into disfavor for her "ridiculous" remarks, and was somewhat out of shape, by the 20-year-old Mendelssohn.

The most notable London performances are those given annually by the vast forces of the Bach Choir under David Willcocks, and by the small-sized London Bach Society under Paul Steinitz. This year both interpretations were unsentimental and reverent (no clapping, please), meticulously shaped and controlled, and performed with an evident conviction that the St. Matthew Passion is a transcendent musical work.

playing in a church which he has not heard" before, achieving the right balance between the orchestra and the separate choirs—indeed, the choirs were very separated, with a number of singers in the galleries. As a result the first part of the service, but never quite finished, but in the second part, the tension of the drama, its interweaving of urgency and compassion, was beautifully rendered and articulated.

The Bach Choir, accompanied by, and at times somewhat overwhelming, the Thames Chamber Orchestra, sang with wonderful modulation and precision: its cry of "Barabba" was as instantaneous and brutal as its "I know it is wrong." And yet, they also sang the opening and concluding choruses with heartfelt commitment.

Attending these Steinltz and Willcocks performances is inevitably to be struck at one aspect of the question of authenticity: To begin with, the Steinltz version is sung in German and the Willcocks in English—Bach, writing the words of the Evangelist in German, the words of the chorales in the Gospel with great musical expressiveness.

The other main contrast of choirs, is in the size of the forces used. Bach wrote for a choir of 16 voices, and forces he could assemble, but they were still very small: about 65 singers in all, though 17 of them, in Bach's own words, were "not musicians at all" and 25 "must be efficient in the culture of their own performance." These chorists, who had to provide all the soloists, were supported by an orchestra of 12 instruments, including the

cians Bach wrote in the following year that "diffidence forbids my speaking, rite of the quality and musical knowledge."

So it is clear that neither the London Bach Society with 70 singers, nor the Bach Choir with 300, were singing the Passion with the resources Bach had in mind. Moreover, Bach had to include large numbers of female voices, with their quite untreble-like tone, whereas Bach used men and boys only.

On the other hand, the orchestral force in both the contemporary performances must have been very different in numbers from Bach's, though certainly the instruments themselves are appreciably different. Bach, incidentally, did not use a harpsichord, but a spinet. Philip Ledger makes such a notable and creative contribution in the Bach Choir performances.

In the event these questions of size of choir and of instrumental authenticity seem rather futile, if the sense of the contemporary, deeply conceived performances like these London ones. What matters is whether the performances respect the spirit and character of the work.

But having said that, one cannot escape the fact that they remain performances, even when given in a church. Could it really be otherwise today? Is there any way in which the audience might be freed from the constraints of the theatre, could even be induced to treat itself as a Lutheran congregation?

Dr Steinltz took a very modest way, this direction, in the way in which he led the singing of the

three of the 12 chorale verses. Dr Willcocks, who gives the chorales very carefully calculated place in his interpretation of the work as whole, is perhaps understandably reluctant to invite the hordes to the Festival Hall to join in. Yet for Bach, the chorales were an important part of the service, and they emphasized the tradition of congregational participation.

In Bach's Passions, the chorals are used in three ways. First a line of melody embedded within a flowing above, a great texture of choral polyphony, as in the opening chorale "Come ye daughters, let us be mourning," while the separate chorists sing the firm sustained line of the chorale. In the second, the chorale melody is in the chorale may provide the theme of a complex chorus itself, as in the conclusion of Part One, "O man, thy grievous sin becometh."

Finally the chorale may appear in its plain hymn-like form as a solo, as in the chorale "I am a sinner," and reflect on a significant moment in the drama. Thus, after Christ tells Peter that "before thou art cackled, thou shalt deny Me thrice," and Peter has vehemently denied the Lord, the chorale "Here would I stand before Thee! Lord, I'd die no more depart."

Is it too much to hope that a contemporary audience might be freed from its unbridled and pedestrian imagination in these expressions of communal self-knowledge and remorse and compassion?

In singing these chorales, which are the only direction in which the audience could be drawn by the

midst of the dramatic experience which is created both by the words of the Gospel as they are reenacted by the Evangelist, and also by the extended vocal arias which the expressive instrumental accompaniment suggests to the audience. The chance of physical involvement, standing all together and singing, seems a fundamental denial of both the drama and the music as Bach conceived them.

Even in so brief a commentary on this, one comes back to the familiar and yet astonishing story as to why and under what circumstances the human savagery and hysteria must by human restraint and pity—and simultaneously to Bach's recreation of this intense drama. The imagination often used to describe Bach's achievement is architectural, and this quality does suggest the unerring balancing of separate elements from enormous multi-part choruses with orchestra to the simplest vocal utterances barely accompanied or from complex baroque arias plus instrumental obligato, to the plain chorales.

Yet architecture is, in the the vastest image, for Bach's achievement is the fashion in which he once penetrates to the heart of the drama and recreates its sequence. In this respect he was the most profoundly gifted of composers, the most powerful able to create, to reveal, musical "truth" that have spiritual validity for believers and non-believers. In this Passion it is he, perhaps even more than St. Matthew himself, who gives the words and the music a depth and a quality of absolute and all-embracing compassion.

The distinctive quality of Bach's compassion comes to its climax at the end of the Passion when all the voices and instruments, be they only a few, or a great multitude, could muster, are great multitudes under the guidance of Dr. Wilcocke join in the last chorus of sorrow and acceptance. "In tears of grief, dear Lord, we leave Thee . . . In sorrow we leave Thee . . . In grief and pain, we leave Thee . . . In death, dear Lord, each triumph of all, to seem to dance thee to the awe-moving, almost buoyant rhythm of that most inward and graceful of dances, the Sarabande.

The author is professor of education at Bristol University.

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Five thousand researchers in education from throughout the United States have been attending the sixtieth annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in San Francisco. Ian Anderson reports

Fall-off in basic courses weakens 'more jobs' case

A substantial swing away from prescribed courses may have weakened the academic case for greater employment opportunities for academics, the advance report of a nationwide study on student enrollment trends has suggested.

The report claims that since 1967 there has been a 10 per cent drop in the proportion of basic or general education courses in student undergraduate programmes.

The subjects which showed the largest drop, in enrolment were English, foreign languages and mathematics.

Students have increased freedom in their choice of courses, a 10 per cent rise has occurred since 1967 in the number of electives which make up the typical undergraduate degree. A major area of study still comprised about one-third of the typical degree.

To the extent that there has been an appreciable increase in student freedom of choice, it appears as if control of the curriculum, which had evolved over the past half-century from administrative control to faculty decision, has been abandoned by academics, the report comments.

Overall, the final course-taking pattern for the degree shows significant increase in depth and a corresponding diminution of breadth. The study, financed by the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies, is published in book form later this year.

Campuses like 'business firms' for education

American educational institutions were behaving more and more like business firms, the meeting was told.

Larry Miller, from Pennsylvania State University, and Edward Miller from the New Jersey State Department of Higher Education, said this was happening as colleges and universities were being pulled by forces such as declining public confidence, a constant deterioration of enrolment growth, crises for better accounting of dollars spent, and a pervasive widening of the cost-income gap.

Institutional offices of development, newly recruited grantmen, and revamped admissions offices, are casting about phorically in a shallower pool of dollar resources.

By far the most overt responses are the development of

Educational research is low down on the list of variables that determine the education programmes of Congress, the conference was told.

And the poor presentation of decision-making to Congressional committees contributes to its lack of influence.

These observations were made by Dr Jack Duncan, counsel for the House Select Sub-Committee on Education, and Dr Robert Anderson, minority staff director of the House Committee on Education and Labour.

They said that educational research should find out who these people were and direct their research findings to them.

Too often, Dr Anderson said, research results were too long, lacked colour, and were full of jargon. Congressmen, with hundreds

Black females earn most

Given equal educational background, black females in higher education usually earn more than black males, a study by the American Educational Research Association has found.

The economists, Howard Tucker, an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin, and Robert Hagaman, graduate student, based their claim on the analysis of data compiled by the American Council on Education in 1972-73 as part of a national cross-section of faculty. They analysed returns from

16,421 faculty of whom 15,181 were male and 1,240 female.

According to their analysis, black females with a bachelor's degree earned \$20,097, black males \$19,459, black males \$21,845, and white males \$22,097.

Administrators, teachers, and other public service earners as much as more than the average administrator in the economics

President of Boston to stay on

from Angela Stent

CAMBRIDGE, MASS

Boston University has been in turmoil for the past month as faculty and student attempts to remove its controversial President, Dr John Silber, have come to a head. After conducting a concerted campaign on his own behalf Dr Silber has won a reprieve. However, the issue has received national attention and has highlighted the problems of reconciling efficient administration with conciliatory leadership in a time of financial crisis in academia.

President Silber came to Boston from the University of Texas in 1970. It is generally agreed that he has increased the viability and prestige of the private 23,000-student campus with its relatively small endowment of \$25m. He has also achieved prominence as an educational innovator with iconoclastic views on how to reform higher education.

His rather acerbic and, some charged, autocratic style of leadership has made him unpopular, however. Things came to a head in December when President Silber announced drastic budget cuts, including the dismissal of 90 untenured professors, and indicated that the faculty might eventually also be dismissed.

Reaction was overwhelming. The students were the first to call for President Silber's resignation at the beginning of April, closely followed by 10 of the university's 15 deans, who asked the board of trustees to remove him on the grounds of "academic and budgetary mismanagement".

It was assumed that the Boston University Trustees would endorse the student and faculty wishes. However, Dr Silber, admitting "my faults, my defects, my idiosyncrasies", conducted a furious campaign. Claiming that, under his management, the university had accumulated almost \$1m in new reserves and \$7.5m in endowment, he emphasized that he had no intention of resigning.

The trustees finally reversed the votes of no confidence and expressed qualified support of his competence. They retained him as President, but introduced a new administrative structure. This consists of a university administration headed by a three-man committee designed not only to remove some of the day-to-day operating responsibilities from Silber, but also to give the trustees much closer supervision of the university.

Although this new structure is designed to give both the trustees and the faculty more say in the running of the university, there is considerable scepticism among many professors about Dr Silber's ability to delegate responsibility. One faculty member said he was "not at all sure the trustees understand the magnitude of his creativity when it comes to redistribution".

Stanford awards pay increases for 'good teaching'

Dean's awards for teaching are to be given to 10-15 per cent of the faculty.

Stanford University has announced that it will award pay increases to 10-15 per cent of its faculty for "good teaching".

The awards will be given to faculty members who have been nominated by their colleagues for outstanding teaching.

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Top aide resigns 'to send sons to college'

from Thomas Cahill

NEW YORK

Mr Terrell Bell, United States Commissioner of Education, has resigned because his salary is not enough to enable him to send his children to college. The resignation is another confirmation of the growing apprehension among middle-class parents about their continued ability to pay for their children's college education.

Mr Bell, the second-ranking education official in the Federal Government, said in a letter to his superior, Dr F. David Mathews, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare: "I will soon have three children in college, and the financial aspects of my employment will be particularly important over the next few years."

As Commissioner of Education, Mr Bell earns \$37,800 a year. In his new job as Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Utah—he will get \$48,600 annually. But if Commissioner Bell found he would not be able to pay for his sons' higher education on \$37,800 a year, the prospects for other Americans—among whom the median income for a family of four is less than \$15,000 a year—are dark indeed.

According to the *Low Tuition Fact Book-1976*, published by the American Association of State College and Universities: "the rate of falling college going is declining among low- and middle-income families. This is true even though the number of college students is increasing every year."

Census data clearly indicate that the percentages of students going to college have been falling. Between 1969 and 1973 there was a 20 per cent drop in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds from families earning less than \$15,000 going on to college on a full-time basis. During the same period there was an 8 per cent drop in the percentage of students going to college full-time from families earning more than \$15,000.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 1974 a typical family of four with an income of \$15,000 could have about \$652 left over for "miscellaneous" expenditures such as recreation, reading material, alcohol, tobacco and so forth. Since the costs of necessities—food, housing, clothing and transport—have risen at a faster rate



Dr David Mathews, Health, Education and Welfare Secretary, who lost his principal assistant.

since 1973 than salaries and most families are now worse off in terms of what they can pay for a college education.

Even an extraordinary generous family will now find it difficult without grants or loans to cover one child to a four-year college. As of September, the costs at a four-year public college will be \$621 a year, or \$2,790 in all, plus room and board.

Obviously Mr Bell could not afford to pay for his sons' education. He was able to do so only because he was able to afford, however, to educate his three sons at a private Ivy League school, undertaking that could easily have cost him more than \$7,000 a year.

Attending a private four-year college has risen by 54 per cent in the last five years. Many public schools have been closed to 100 per cent during the two-year foundation course.

At the beginning of last month 203 students affected by the changes refused to sit the examinations and wrote resolutions. The three rectorial bills, Mrs Djerregaard took the unprecedented step in Denmark of expelling the rebels.

The expulsions provoked protests from academics who claimed the precedent lawyers who claimed it was illegal, and students throughout the country, between 10,000 and 15,000 of whom boycotted classes and held mass meetings.

The examination assessors assured students that they would put more weight on examinations for the course work, only requiring a token knowledge in coming to their final evaluations. However, the students refused to consider the rebels were re-instated and, in a complete volte

New Princeton Institute head

The renowned Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey, has chosen Dr Harry Woolf, provost of Johns Hopkins University as its fifth director.

The Institute, an oasis of pure scholarship, where professors have no fixed duties, no classes and no students, is situated in the same town as Princeton University, but has no formal connexion with it.

Predecessors of the current faculty include Albert Einstein, Hermann Weyl, John von Neumann, Erwin Panofsky and J. Robert Oppenheimer, who served as the institute's third director.

Directing an institute of such outstanding figures is necessarily a

Grade 'A's go up 100pc

The percentage of top grades in "A" given to undergraduates has more than doubled since the mid-1960s, according to a survey at the University of Illinois at Urbana.

The survey at the University of Illinois at Urbana found that the proportion of A grades has dropped by half in the same 10-year period. But the upward trend may be the way down as experienced by the director of Berkeley's Office of Institutional Research, Dr Sidney Low, for the university's Graduate Council and its College of Letters and Science. Both groups reported the survey as they were concerned about the impact grade inflation might be having on admissions.

Berkeley's graduate programme may have been a victim of the inflation. In 1964, following the lead of Stanford and other universities, Berkeley began to award A grades to students who had previously received B grades.

The survey indicated that the percentage of A grades increased from 13 per cent in 1964 to 26 per cent in 1974.

It's Dr Frank

Dr Frank Sinatra is to be awarded a honorary degree by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, later this month. The Doctor of Humane Letters is being granted in recognition of his achievements in raising money for the university.

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT 14.5.78

Denmark

Two votes win reprieve for controversial college

from Mike Ducknfield

Scandinavia correspondent

STOCKHOLM

The unprecedented mass expulsion of 203 second-year students who refused to sit exams at Roskilde University Centre has sparked off widespread disruption of Danish higher education and brought the 12-year-old experimental institution to the brink of closure and the minority Social Democratic Government to the point of resignation.

Only after a day-long debate in the Folketing (Parliament) last week was continuance of the centre guaranteed, and then only by 79 votes to 77.

Last week's events brought to a head discontent with Roskilde which had been mounting since complaints last summer by teachers and the centre's first rector, Professor Erling Olsen, that academic standards were too low.

In response Mrs Ritt Djerregaard, Education Minister, said studies in future should be more formal with fixed courses rather than project work, and exams should be assessed externally, bringing the centre into line with the rest of Danish higher education.

Last December Mrs Djerregaard, who felt that the reorganization was not proceeding fast enough, got Parliament to agree to the suspension of the centre's internal administration and replaced it with a three-man rectorate of non-academics directly responsible to the ministry.

New examinations, announced in January to assess the newly introduced obligatory course work, met with a storm of protests. Students complained that not only had the examinations been sprung on them halfway through their studies but that the course work would leave them less time for completing projects. The basis of student work—the two-year foundation course.

At the beginning of last month 203 students affected by the changes refused to sit the examinations and wrote resolutions. The three rectorial bills, Mrs Djerregaard took the unprecedented step in Denmark of expelling the rebels.

The expulsions provoked protests from academics who claimed the precedent lawyers who claimed it was illegal, and students throughout the country, between 10,000 and 15,000 of whom boycotted classes and held mass meetings.

The examination assessors assured students that they would put more weight on examinations for the course work, only requiring a token knowledge in coming to their final evaluations. However, the students refused to consider the rebels were re-instated and, in a complete volte

face the day before the debate, Mrs Djerregaard agreed.

Roskilde has been the problem child of Danish higher education since it started teaching four years ago. Established as an alternative to traditional degree-granting institutions such as the universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus, the university centre concept emerged following an intensive debate on the future of higher education in the late 1960s.

The principal reasons for launching the centre first at Roskilde, 20 miles west of the capital, and then in 1974 at Aalborg in northern Jutland, were to relieve student pressure on educational facilities in the greater Copenhagen area, create extended opportunities for transfer between courses, promote interdisciplinary studies and ward off the continued gravitation towards traditional degree courses lasting between five and six and a half years.

The new institutions were to be similar to American junior colleges, offering a preparatory pre-degree education, but also with the later options of three-year degree courses.

Democracy and the abuse of it has been a central problem at Roskilde, but there have been others. The higher education system as a whole is facing a major crisis because of large-scale graduate unemployment, unsatisfactory course alternatives, political distrust and declining funds.

Following the Parliamentary vote it is still unclear exactly what changes will now take place at Roskilde. However, in a television interview Mrs Djerregaard said the recent administrative arrangements will continue despite the resignation of one of the three rectors. In the long-term Roskilde's future cannot be guaranteed.

Many observers fear that higher education becomes more expensive for many who would formerly have gone on to college, a matter of course, we are witnessing the end of the upward mobility, the end really of the "American Dream" itself. It is to be expected that the individual economic and social progress becomes increasingly unlikely.

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Republic of Ireland

Technological splits widen

from Peppy Barlow

DUBLIN

The Government's plans for the development of technology and science in the two-tiered institutions in the two-tiered institutions in Dublin and Limerick, viewed in sharply different directions.

In Dublin the Vocational Education Committee, which controls five colleges, restricted to become the core for the Dublin National Institute for Higher Education, which included a university, a college of education, and a college of commerce.

And in Limerick the governing body of the Limerick National Institute for Higher Education, which included a university, a college of education, and a college of commerce.

The Dublin VEC agreement with the Limerick National Institute for Higher Education, which included a university, a college of education, and a college of commerce.

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Italy

Left prepares to woo graduate jobless

from Patricia Clough

ROME

Graduate unemployment and university reform look certain to be among the issues on which the campaign for next month's crucial Italian elections will be fought.

The frustration and discontent among jobless university and school leavers is seen as an important political, as well as social, question and parties, particularly on the left, are expected to contend energetically for their vote.

Graduate unemployment has been particularly severe since the universities were thrown open in the 1960s to anyone who had completed their secondary education. The resulting collapse of standards and over-abundance of graduates meant that a degree was no longer the passport to social advancement and professional success that many students—often from lower socioeconomic levels—had hoped.

The Christian Democrats, who have ruled Italy since the war, are expected to be accused, with their centre-left allies, of failing to promise the university reforms promised over since the 1968 student revolt.

Several reform bills have been presented to Parliament and then shelved. The only progress has been a package of short-term measures, only partially successful, to alleviate the more immediate problems such as underfunding, and a Bill approved in March to finance university building.

The problems at the universities were raised unexpectedly last month in a heated debate in the Italian Parliament (April 23) by the Communist Party—who apparently with an eye to the elections—presented a university reform plan of their own.

The Communist plan was striking in its similarity to past Government Reform Bills, with its stress on more democratic university governance and reorganization on departmental lines.

The main difference was its insistence that professors devote themselves to their university work full-time instead of part-time as the Christian Democrats would prefer. At the same time Communist education experts let it be known that they did not exclude the idea of restricting university intake. This idea has been championed by all parties for years as the height of social injustice, even though privately many politicians admitted that something on these lines will have to be done sooner or later.

Switzerland

Rectors oppose centralization White Paper

from Patrick Czajkowski

GENEVA

Opposition to the Federal Government's White Paper on higher education (THES, April 30) has been growing in both academic and political circles.

The Conference of University Rectors has called for a preliminary session, and the University Research Society and the Swiss Association of Young Researchers have both argued against the fact that the universities "themselves" are allowed only a minor role in the government's projected "coordinating department".

In particular, Government opponents say the White Paper puts forward the idea that "Federal Finance should be given separately to the universities and to research institutes".

Swiss Socialists, who have also achieved a unanimity of outlook, the fighting Swiss Democratic Liberal Union has underlined the fact that the White Paper is a "political document" and not a "technical document".

The Swiss Socialists Party, on the other hand, has called the White Paper a "political document" and not a "technical document".

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Douglas Morrison reports from Mozambique on how the country's only university is being transformed into an organ of the revolution

'Science must serve the people'

MAPUTO

Mozambique, ten months independent, is a country in transition from Portuguese colonial rule to a full-blown socialist people's republic. Its only university, in Maputo, formerly Lourenço Marques, used to produce an elite, almost exclusively white, which would maintain that colonial system. Now it is being radically restructured.

Samora Machel, Mozambique's President, stated the aims of the first education in 1972: "The principal task of education is to instill the advanced scientific, objective and collective ideology which enables us to progress in the revolutionary process."

"We need a consciousness of responsibility and collective solidarity from all individuals and corporations. We have to acquire a scientific attitude, open and free from the dead weight of superstition and dogmatic traditions. What we want is a revolutionary mental outlook which uses science to serve the people."

This philosophy still applies and explains the emphasis on scientific and practical subjects—out of 1,304 full-time students only 113 are in the faculty of letters.

It also explains why the university rector, Professor Fernando Ganhao, is a devoted member of the rectorial central ruling committee, and the presence in all faculties of grupos dinamizadores, whose function is similar to that of political committees in other socialist states: the revolutionary mentality has to be inculcated in academics, too.

I asked Senhor Jose Manuel Buclello, the university's secretary, if, with the exodus of staff before and after independence, replacements who would suit the new approach had been hard to find.

He said that, at most, 15 per cent of local staff had been replaced. The rest had been recruited from outside. At least their culture had been found. Among them were English, Swiss, Italians, Danes, Bulgarians, Poles and Portuguese. Even Americans would be acceptable if they had the right ideological approach. Full-time staff at the moment number between 250 and 300.

The percentage of losses he gave contrasts with much higher estimates from other sources but he is adamant that they were no higher than 15 per cent. A much greater percentage loss had occurred in student numbers. Last August 800 were estimated to have gone and it is likely that more have departed since—the academic year began in February. Most students and staff went to Portugal and South Africa, and some to Brazil or Rhodesia.

In an effort to increase student numbers a one-year preliminary course has been started, intended for those who do not have the full entry qualifications for a four-year undergraduate programme.

The university has also been restructured. Most of the staff have been given to members of grupos dinamizadores. University education is not free, although charges are minimal: one month's board and lodging.

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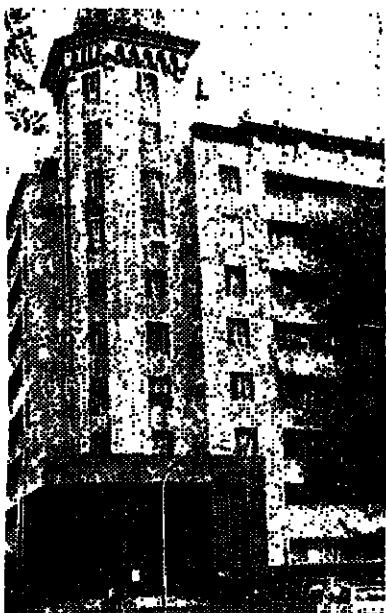
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University of Maputo.

Year courses cost 100 escudos (about £2) and courses lasting one semester 50 escudos. Scholarships are available which cover accommodation. About 150 students live in university residences.

Despite claims that some courses were being shorted to speed up the output of trained personnel, Senhor Buclello emphasized that they were the same as before. The only difference was that in some there was now a three-year bachelor course which could be followed by two years for a master's degree, whereas previously there had only been five-year master's courses. The law degrees were an exception, with a basic two years being followed by two years for the master's. Medical degrees had not been shortened.

No postgraduate work is being done at the university, although 18 postgraduates are studying in England and two in America.

The only research being done is on curriculum reform, at the pedagogical institute. Courses left by the Portuguese had entirely the wrong bias and had to be reassessed as to the best way of suitably them to the needs of the country, said Senhor Buclello.

Financially the university was sound. Its libraries and laboratories were well-equipped and it was not short of accommodation for teaching. The Government grant for 1975 had been about £2m and he did not anticipate any major shortages in 1976, in line with other sectors lightening their bolts in present economic difficulties the university could not press for more than its fair share.

However, teaching salaries are not being reduced as part of the economic effort. Professors got about £500 a month and lecturers about £300.

One area where resources are short is in English. Teaching materials, including books, are scarce and an approach has already been made to the British Embassy in Maputo for aid.

Because the Portuguese ideology is being replaced by a Marxist-Leninist ideology, there has always been a demand for a change in the curriculum. The curriculum has been revised to reflect the new ideology.

They do this during term but particularly during the holiday vacation, when they have to spend a month in the country, and as the year end break.

Spain

Academy speech 40 years on

from William Chisler

MADRID

Salvador de Madariaga, the grand old man of Spanish letters and one of the country's most famous political exiles of the Franco era, gave his inaugural speech to the Spanish Royal Academy last week—40 years after being elected to his chair.

Don Salvador, who returned to Spain in 1947, a most famous political exile of the Franco era, gave his inaugural speech to the Spanish Royal Academy last week—40 years after being elected to his chair.



Five thousand researchers in education from throughout the United States have been attending the sixtieth annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in San Francisco. Ian Anderson reports

Fall-off in basic courses weakens 'more jobs' case

A substantial swing away from prescribed courses may have weakened the academic case for greater employment opportunities for academics, the advance report of a nationwide study on student enrolment trends has suggested.

The report claims that since 1967 there has been a 10 per cent drop in the proportion of basic or general education courses in student undergraduate programmes.

The subjects which showed the largest drop, in college courses were English, foreign languages and mathematics.

Instead, students have increased freedom in their choice of courses: a 10 per cent rise has occurred since 1967 in the number of electives which make up the typical undergraduate degree. This was 50 per cent in the typical degree.

"To the extent that there has been an appreciable increase in student freedom of choice, it appears as if control of the curriculum, which has evolved over the past half-century from administrative edict to faculty decision, has been abandoned by academics", the report comments.

Overall, the final course-taking pattern for the degree shows significant increases in depth and a corresponding diminution of breadth. The study, financed by the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies, is to be published in book form later.

Campuses like 'business firms'

American educational institutions were behaving more and more like business firms, the meeting was told.

Larry Lash, from Pennsylvania State University, and Howard Miller from the New Jersey State Department of Education, said this was happening at colleges and universities were being "run by unique forces" such as self-interest, public confidence, a continuing decline of enrolment growth, cries for better accounting of dollars spent and a pervasive widening of the competitive gap.

Institutional offices of development, newly recruited managers, and revamped admissions offices, are casting about for new resources. By far, the most overt responses are the development of new educational products, the seeking of new ones, and the active seeking of new buyers—such as the non-traditional student—in a highly volatile marketplace.

Black females earn most

Given equal credentials, black females in higher education usually received a higher salary than black males, and both groups always received more than white males, three economists from Florida State University told the meeting.

The economists, Howard Tuckman, assistant professor, James Caplan, associate professor, and Robert Hargmann, graduate student, based their claim on the analysis of data compiled by the American Council on Education in 1972-73 as part of a national cross-section of faculty. They analysed returns from

this year; the preliminary results were presented to the meeting by Clifton Conrad from the University of Denver.

The study compared the academic years 1966-67 to 1973-74. Based on Carnegie Commission classifications, 18 categories were used from complex research universities to two-year institutions; the sample represented at least 5 per cent of the total number of United States institutions within a particular category.

The report says that the average general education requirements in a degree have fallen since 1967 from 43.1 per cent to 33.5 per cent in four-year colleges and from 58.7 per cent to 53.3 per cent at two-year colleges.

The structure of general education has also changed: there are less mandatory subjects and instead a greater selection from a specified set of subjects. In four-year colleges in 1974, prescribed courses represented 38 per cent of general education requirements; this was 50 per cent in 1967.

Each major disciplinary area—humanities, natural sciences, and the social sciences—has registered a decline. The number of institutions requiring English, a foreign language and mathematics as part of each student's general education declined appreciably—from 90 per cent of the institutions to 72 per cent for English, 72 to 53 per cent for a foreign language, and 33 to 20 per cent for mathematics.

Low priority for education

Educational research is low down on the list of variables that determine the education programmes of Congress, the conference was told. And the poor presentation of research findings to Congress decision-makers contributes to its lack of influence.

The observations were made by Dr Jack Danneberg, counsel for the House Select Sub-Committee on Education, and Dr Robert Andringa, minority staff director of the House Committee on Education and Labour.

They said that educational researchers should find out who these people were and direct their research findings to them.

For example, Dr Andringa said, research results were too long, lacked colour, and were full of jargon. Congressmen, with hundreds of pieces of proposed legislation to consider, did not want to wade through them. "I'm convinced educators are the least effective witnesses on Capitol Hill", he said.

President of Boston to stay on

from Angela Stent

CAMBRIDGE, MASS

Boston University has been in turmoil for the past month as faculty and student attempts to remove its controversial President, Dr John Silber, have come to a head. After conducting a concerted campaign on his own behalf Dr Silber has won a reprieve. However, the issue has received national attention and has highlighted the problems of reconciling efficient administration with conciliatory leadership in a time of financial crisis in academia.

President Silber came to Boston from the University of Texas in 1970. It is generally agreed that he has increased the viability and prestige of the private 23,000-student campus with its relatively small endowment of \$25m. He has also achieved prominence as an educational innovator with iconoclastic views on how to reform higher education.

His rather acerbic and, some charge, autocratic style of leadership has made him unpopular, however. Things came to a head in December when President Silber announced drastic budget cuts, including the dismissal of 90 untenured professors, and indicated that tenured faculty might eventually also be dismissed.

Reaction was overwhelming. The students were the first to call for his resignation. In April, closely followed by 10 of the university's 15 deans, who asked the board of trustees to remove him on the grounds of "academic and budgetary mismanagement".

It was assumed that the Boston University Trustees would endorse the student and faculty wishes. However, Dr Silber, attributing my reports to "my idiosyncrasy", conducted a furious campaign. Claiming that, under his management, the university had recovered almost \$12m in new resources and \$7m in endowment, he emphasized that he had no intention of resigning.

The trustees finally reversed the votes of no confidence and expressed qualified support of his competence. They voted to retain him as president, but introduced a new administrative structure. This consisted of a university administration headed by a three-man committee designed not only to remove some of the day-to-day operating responsibilities from his jurisdiction, but also to give the trustees much closer supervision of the university.

Although this new structure is designed to give both the trustees and the faculty more say in the conduct of the university, there is considerable scepticism among many professors about Dr Silber's ability to delegate responsibility. One faculty member said he was "not sure the trustees understand the magnitude of his creativity when it comes to retribution".

Stanford awards pay increases for 'good teaching'

Dean's awards for teaching are to be given to 10 to 15 faculty members annually in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Stanford University. The scheme will start this autumn.

The awards will consist of salary increases of \$500 each. Recipients will be chosen by the dean and an ad hoc faculty committee, who will make their judgments primarily on the basis of recommendations from evidence prepared by the nominee's department.

Items taken into consideration will include peer evaluation of the evaluation of courses, peer evaluation of teaching, peer evaluation of research, peer evaluation of service, peer evaluation of administrative experience, and five to 10 publications. In the following salary brackets: white males \$20,000; black males \$21,000; black females \$21,500; white females \$22,000.

Administrators receive higher salaries than either outstanding teachers or those in public service, which was published more than the average administrator, the economists told the meeting.

Top aide resigns 'to send sons to college'

from Thomas Cahill

NEW YORK

Mr Terrell Bell, United States Commissioner of Education, has resigned because his salary is not enough to enable him to send his children to college. The resignation is another confirmation of the growing apprehension among middle-class parents about their continued ability to pay for their children's college education.

Mr Bell, the second-ranking education official in the Federal Government, said in a letter to his superior, Dr F. David Matthews, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: "I will soon have three sons entering college, and the financial aspects of my employment will be particularly important over the next few years."

As Commissioner of Education, Mr Bell earns \$37,800 a year. In his new job—as Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Utah—he will get \$48,000 annually. But if Commissioner Bell found he would not be able to pay for his sons' higher education on \$37,800 a year, the prospects for other Americans—among whom the median income for a family of four is less than \$15,000 a year—are dark indeed.

According to the *Low Tuition Fact Book-1976*, published by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities: "the rate of full-time college going is declining among low- and middle-income families. This is true even though the number of college students is increasing every year."

Census data clearly indicate that the percentages of students going to college have been falling. Between 1965 and 1973 there was a 20 per cent drop in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds from families earning less than \$15,000 going on to any college on a full-time basis. During the same period there was an 8 per cent drop in the percentage of students going to college full-time from families earning more than \$15,000.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 1974 a typical family of four with an income of \$14,333 would have about \$662 left for education and other "miscellaneous" expenditures such as recreation, reading material, alcohol, tobacco and so forth.

Since the costs of necessities—food, housing, clothing and transport—have risen at a faster rate



Dr David Matthews, Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary, who is to lose his principal assistant.

since 1973 than salaries and wages, most families are now relatively worse off in terms of available income to come to pay for a college education. Even an extraordinarily abstemious family now find it difficult to send even one child to a four-year public college. As of September, average cost at a four-year public college will be \$621 a year, if one can live at home; \$2,790 if one must board at the college.

Obviously Mr Bell could afford these prices even at his current salary. What he might not be able to afford, however, would be to educate his three sons on a college level.

Since 1970 the average cost of attending a private four-year college has risen by 34 per cent. The rise in costs at many public institutions has been close to 100 per cent (*THE*, April 23).

Many observers fear that a higher education becomes too expensive for many who would like to have it. The higher education system as a whole is facing a major crisis because of large-scale graduate unemployment, unsatisfactory course alternatives, political distrust and declining funds.

Following the Parliamentary vote it is still unclear exactly what changes will now take place at Roskilde. However, in a television interview Mrs Djerregaard said the recent administrative arrangements will continue despite the resignation of one of the three rectors. In the long-term Roskilde's future cannot be guaranteed.

At the beginning of last month 203 students affected by the changes refused to sit the examinations and when negotiations with the three rectors failed, Mrs Djerregaard took the unprecedented step in Denmark of expelling the rebels.

The expulsions provoked protests from academics, who disliked the precedent, lawyers, who claimed it was illegal, and students throughout the country, between 10,000 and 15,000 of whom boycotted classes and held mass meetings.

The examination assessors assured students that they would put little weight on examinations for the course work, only requiring a token knowledge in coming to their final evaluations. However, the students refused to consider the proposal unless the rebels were reinstated and, in a complete volte

The Government's plans for the development of technological education came under severe strain last week as institutions in the two cities involved—Dublin and Limerick—voiced sharply different directions.

In Dublin the Vocational Education Committees, which comprise two colleges destined to become the core of the new Dublin National Institute for Higher Education, concluded a unilateral agreement with the authors of the University of Dublin (Trinity College, Dublin), which cuts across the traditional path of development of the Dublin NUI.

And in Limerick the governing body of the Limerick National Institute for Higher Education found itself in the three-way tug-of-war over the degree validation with the National University of Ireland.

It's Dr Frank

Frank Sinatra is to be awarded an honorary degree by the University of New York City later this month. The Doctor of Humane Letters is being granted in recognition of Sinatra's help in raising \$50,000 in scholarships for the university.

Denmark

Two votes win reprieve for controversial college

from Mike Duckenfield

Scandinavia correspondent

STOCKHOLM

The unprecedented mass expulsion of 203 second-year students who refused to sit exams at Roskilde University Centre has sparked off widespread disruption of Danish higher education and brought the six-year-old experimental institution to the brink of closure and the minority Social Democratic Government to the point of resignation.

Only after a day-long debate in the Folketing (Parliament) last week was continuance of the centre guaranteed, and then only by 79 votes to 77.

Last week's events brought to a head discontent with Roskilde which had been mounting since complaints last summer by teachers and the centre's first rector, Professor Erling Olsen, that academic standards were too low.

In response, Mrs Ritt Djerregaard, Education Minister, said studies in future should be more formal with fixed courses rather than project work, and exams should be assessed externally, bringing the centre into line with the rest of Danish higher education.

Last December Mrs Djerregaard, who felt that the reorganization was not proceeding fast enough, got Parliament to agree to the suspension of the centre's normal administration and replaced it with a three-man rectorate of non-educationalists directly responsible to the ministry.

New examinations, announced in January to assess the newly introduced obligatory course work, met with a storm of protest. Students complained that not only had the examinations been sprung on them halfway through their studies but that the course work would leave them less time for completing project work—the basis of studies during the two-year foundation course.

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face the day before the debate, Mrs Djerregaard agreed.

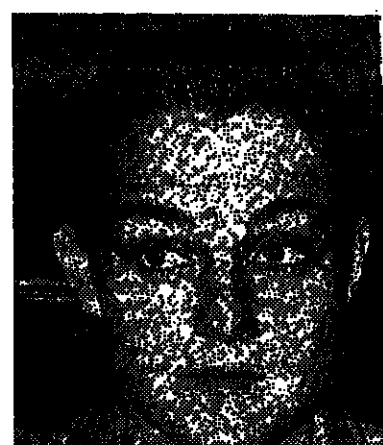
Roskilde has been the problem child of Danish higher education since it started four years ago. Established as an alternative to traditional degree-granting institutions such as the universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus, the university centre concept emerged following an intensive debate on the future of higher education in the late 1960s.

The principal reasons for launching the centres, first at Roskilde, 20 miles west of the capital, and then in 1974 at Aarhus in northern Jutland, were to relieve student pressure on educational facilities in the greater Copenhagen area, create extended opportunities for transfer between courses, promote interdisciplinary studies and ward off the continued gravitation towards traditional degree courses, lasting between five and six and a half years.

The new institutions were to be similar to American junior colleges, offering a preparatory pre-degree education, but also with the inter options of three-year degree courses.

Democracy and the abuse of it has been a central problem at Roskilde, but there have been others. The higher education system as a whole is facing a major crisis because of large-scale graduate unemployment, unsatisfactory course alternatives, political distrust and declining funds.

Following the Parliamentary vote it is still unclear exactly what changes will now take place at Roskilde. However, in a television interview Mrs Djerregaard said the recent administrative arrangements will continue despite the resignation of one of the three rectors. In the long-term Roskilde's future cannot be guaranteed.



Mrs Djerregaard: reorganising Roskilde.

Republic of Ireland

Technological splits widen

from Peppy Barlow

DUBLIN

The Government's plans for the development of technological education came under severe strain last week as institutions in the two cities involved—Dublin and Limerick—voiced sharply different directions.

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The Dublin VEC agreement with TCD allows for a wide-ranging degree of cooperation and exchange, including the mutual availability of degrees and diplomas. In effect, it is a joint venture in which the VEC is being granted in recognition of Sinatra's help in raising \$50,000 in scholarships for the university.

Italy

Left prepares to woo graduate jobless

from Patricia Clough

ROME

Graduate unemployment and university reform loom certain to be among the issues on which the campaign for next month's crucial Italian elections will be fought.

The frustration and discontent among jobless university and school leavers is seen as an important political, as well as social, question and parties, particularly on the left, are expected to contend energetically for their vote.

Graduate unemployment has been particularly severe since the universities were thrown open in the 1960s to anyone who had completed their secondary education. The resulting collapse of standards and over-abundance of graduates meant that a degree was no longer the passport to social advancement and professional success that many students—often from lower social-economic levels—had hoped.

The Italian Social Democrats, who have ruled Italy since the war, are expected to be accused, with their centre-left allies, of failing to produce the university reforms promised ever since the 1968 student riots.

Several reform Bills have been presented to Parliament and then shelved. The only progress has been a package of short-term measures, only partially successful, to alleviate the more immediate problems such as understaffing, and a Bill approved in March to finance university building.

The problems at the universities were raised unexpectedly last month (*THE*, April 23) by the Communists, who apparently with an eye to the elections—presented a university reform plan of their own.

The Communist plan was striking in its similarity to past Government Reform Bills, with its stress on more democratic university government and reorganization on departmental lines.

The main difference was its insistence that professors devote themselves to their university work full-time, instead of part-time as the Christian Democrats would prefer. At the same time Communist education experts let it be known that they did not exclude the idea of restricting university intake. This idea has been shunned by all parties for years as the height of social injustice, even though privately many politicians admitted that something on these lines will have to be done sooner or later.

The percentage of losses he gave contrasts with much higher estimates from other sources but he was adamant that they were no higher than 15 per cent. A much greater percentage loss has occurred in student numbers. Last August 800 were estimated to have gone and it is likely that more have departed since the academic year begins in February. Most students and staff went to Portugal and South Africa, and some to Brazil or Rhodesia.

Switzerland

Rectors oppose centralization White Paper

from Patrick Czajkowski

GENEVA

Opposition to the Federal Government's White Paper on higher education (*THE*, April 30) has been growing in both academic and political circles.

The Conference of University Rectors has called for retention of autonomy and the University Research Society and the Swiss Association of Young Researchers have both argued against the fact that the universities themselves are allowed only a minor role in the Government's projected co-ordinating department.

In particular, Government opponents say that the White Paper puts forward the idea that Federal finance should be given separately to the universities and to research projects.

Political parties have also achieved a unanimous outlook. The Right-wing Swiss Democratic Liberal Union has underlined the weak constitutional base for the White Paper and warned the Federal Government against assuming powers not provided for by the Constitution.

The Swiss Socialist Party, on the other hand, has rejected the White Paper on the grounds that it does not go far enough towards meeting the needs of higher education throughout Switzerland.

Douglas Morrison reports from Mozambique on how the country's only university is being transformed into an organ of the revolution

'Science must serve the people'

MAPUTO

Mozambique, ten months independent, is in a transition from Portuguese colonial rule to a self-blown socialist people's republic. Its only university, in Maputo, formerly Lourenço Marques, used to produce an elite, almost exclusively white, which would maintain that colonial system. Now it is being radically restructured.

Samora Machel, Mozambique's President, stated the aims of Frelimo education in 1972: "The principal task of education is to instil the advanced scientific, objective and collective ideology which enables us to progress in the revolutionary process."

"We need a consciousness of responsibility and collective solidarity free from all individualism and corruption. We have to acquire a realistic attitude, open and free from the shackles of superstition and dogmatic traditions. What we want is a revolutionary mentality which uses science to serve the people."

This philosophy still applies and explains the emphasis on scientific and practical subjects—out of 1,304 full-time students only 113 are in the faculty of letters.

It also explains why the university rector, Professor Fernando Ganhao, is a co-opted member of the Frelimo central ruling committee, and the presence of faculties of *grupos dinamizadores* (dynamic groups) similar to that of political committees in other socialist states: the revolutionary mentality has to be inculcated in academics, too.

I asked Senhor José Manuel Buculato, the university's secretary, if with the exodus of staff before and after independence, the function of the university would be assessed as to the best way of suiting them to the needs of the country, said Senhor Buculato.

Financially the university was sound. Its libraries and laboratories were well equipped and it was not short of accommodation for teaching. The Government grant for 1975 had been about \$4m and he did not anticipate asking for more in 1976; in line with other sectors the bulk of the present economic difficulties the university could not press for more than its fair share.

However, teaching salaries are not being reduced as part of the economic effort. Professors get about \$500 a month and lecturers about \$300.

One area where resources are short is in English. Teaching materials, including books, are scarce, and there has always been a demand made to the British Embassy in Maputo for aid.

Because the Frelimo ideology is based on a desire to liberate the ordinary people of Mozambique there has always been an element of distrust of any educated elite which might "take away from the people" their knowledge, or, at least, act as teachers in the schools. They do this during term but particularly during the mid-year vacation, when they have to spend some time in the country, and at the end of the year end break.

Spain Academy speech—40 years on

from William Chislett

MADRID

Salvador de Madariaga, the grand old man of Spanish letters and one of the country's most famous political exiles of the Franco era, gave his inaugural speech at the Spanish Royal Academy last week—40 years after being elected to his chair.

Don Salvador, who returned to Spain just over a month ago and is the first literary and academic dignitary to come back since Franco died in November, was formerly pro-



University of Maputo.

year courses cost 100 escudos (about £2) and courses lasting one semester 50 escudos. Scholarships are available while cover accommodation. About 150 students live in university residences.

Despite claims that some courses were being shortened to speed up the output of trained personnel, Senhor Buculato emphasized that they were the same as before. The only difference was that in some there was now a three-year bachelor course which could be followed by two years for a master's degree, whereas previously there had only been five-year master's courses. The law degrees were an exception with a basic two years being followed by two years for the master's. Medical degrees had not been shortened.

No postgraduate work is being done at the university, although 18 postgraduates are studying in England and two in America.

The only research being done is on curriculum reform, at the pedagogical institute. Courses left by the Portuguese had entirely the wrong bias and had to be reassessed as to the best way of suiting them to the needs of the country, said Senhor Buculato.

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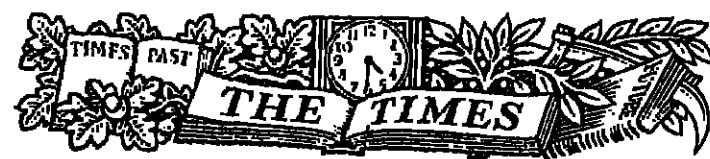
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Among those who heard him speak on "Beauty in Science" were Andres Segovia, the guitarist, and Professor Walter Starke, author and scholar who, by virtue of his membership of the Irish Royal Academy, is a corresponding member of the Spanish body.

During the Spanish Republic in the 1930s he was in turn ambassador in Washington and Paris, Education and Justice Minister and Spain's representative at the League of Nations.



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Validation of college degrees

In recent months the apparent profligacy with which some universities have approved degree proposals by former colleges of education has been compared increasingly—and unfavourably by implication—with the parsimony of the Council for National Academic Awards when faced with the same requests. It is even suggested, perhaps too cynically, that a few universities have been prepared to contemplate the development of a double standard in degrees, their own and those awarded under their auspices to colleges.

In polytechnics the increase of degree work in the colleges has certainly been viewed with bad tempered alarm. Six years ago they often complained bitterly that they had been forced to travel a stony road to academic respectability through the National Council for Technological Awards and later the CNAA while the new universities followed a broad and easy highway under the brief and untrammelled tutelage of academic advisory committees. Today they complain just as bitterly, although more discreetly, that the colleges are being allowed to take a short cut to the same destination.

Two criticisms are made in both universities and polytechnics: first, that some degree courses which former colleges of education plan to offer are not up to scratch; and secondly, that even if they do satisfy minimum academic standards, they are unnecessary because they compete with courses that are already available in senior institutions and do not fit into any coherent plan for the development of higher education in different economic circumstances. Both criticisms appear sufficiently plausible to require most careful examination.

An impressive quality of British higher education has always been the homogeneity of standards, particularly degree standards. In spite of the very considerable expansion of the last generation and the increasing contribution of institutions other than universities, the quality of the degree has not been devalued to any significant extent. The contrast with the United States is striking. There the title of degree covers a multitude of standards, and standards are low.

The CNAA has occasionally been criticised in the past for excessive caution and even delay in approving degree submissions. In fact caution and delay were often necessary to reassure the rest of higher education, principally the universities, the prospective students and their future employers, not only that proper standards were maintained but that they were seen to be maintained.

Need for a second 'think tank'?

Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics, is a forceful and persuasive man and his proposals for the establishment of a policy research institute or "think tank" to examine the British predicament together with an LSE Centre for Policy Studies would be important even if they came to nothing.

They are an excellent example of the imaginative and responsible approach to the problems of higher education. There is a number of reasons why the idea of developing a British equivalent of the Washington-based Brookings Institution should be examined seriously.

With customary forbearance Professor Dahrendorf has listed the principal objections to his discussion paper: they include the problem of adequate finance, the fact that the institution would only devote work being done elsewhere and the difficulty of establishing a balance between the academic and the policy functions of the staff.

These are valid criticisms, but it should also be asked whether such a centre—especially along the lines of the Brookings Institution—is required at all. The institution is large and expensive. With such

Indeed the care the CNAA has shown over the past 10 years, against which polytechnics have sometimes chafed, was an essential foundation of the polytechnics' present academic standing. The criticism that can be levelled against the universities is not so much that they have not made sure that colleges will be able to satisfy minimum academic standards, but that they may have neglected the essential task of preparing opinion within and without higher education to accept this development with confidence.

Of course, these universities faced a much more urgent task than the CNAA. With the decline in the birthrate many colleges lost their former empire of teacher education, or saw it drastically reduced, and had to find a compensating role in higher education. The buildings had to be used, the staff had to be employed. Because of their historic links with the university sector, most colleges quite naturally turned there for help in establishing new courses.

Universities should probably be praised for their generous response rather than criticised for allowing academic standards to slip. It is hardly in their interest in times of economic stringency to allow a proliferation of colleges which look to them for academic guidance.

Yet the second and more serious criticism has not been answered. Has the development of higher education on rational and efficient principles in the 1980s been subordinated to the immediate task of finding a new role for colleges of education in the mid 1970s?

It is really sensible to build up degree work on the fringes of higher education, and to contemplate the diversion of resources that may be necessary to make it viable at a time when the core of higher education, the universities and polytechnics, is being squeezed?

Perhaps this development can be justified on the grounds that smaller and more local institutions of higher education are desirable. However, no one has yet argued seriously in these terms, and if they did, it would imply a rejection of the policy of concentration that has been such a marked feature of higher education policy in the past 20 years.

If some attempt to look what is happening in the former colleges of education for a broader development of the entire sector is made now, the results could well include lower academic standards and wasteful duplication—hardly the developments at a time when politicians and public opinion do not look with favour on higher education.

Professor Dahrendorf is therefore right to suggest that such an institute should start small and grow according to demand. The model, in fact, might be the present government's "think tank" in the form of a small, independent, non-partisan, and non-commercial body.

There is certainly room for a second "think tank" comparatively free of the constraints of continuity and loyalty that the CNAA, which recruits chiefly from government departments, is bound by.

There would be no shortage of problems for such an institute to tackle, but there might be a shortage of workable ideas. After all, the problems are identifiable, and they are not already being tackled by the existing range of British research institutes and university departments?

The first job of a new institute of the kind envisaged by Professor Dahrendorf would be to isolate the resolvable research problems and develop a mechanism for feeding its conclusions into the decision-making process.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Overloading the staff

from Mr P. J. Madgwick
Sir—There are two categories of staff in universities (and perhaps in schools too) for whom staffing ratios apply—teachers and cleaners.

In the case of the cleaners, the unions have sensibly insisted on a maximum ratio of floor space to each cleaner. In the case of university teachers, the overall target ratio has been increased by 25 per cent by the University Grants Committee/Department of Education and Science (to 1:10); and in order to achieve this the highest ratios have risen to 20 per cent or more above the target (1:12 and above).

Meanwhile other categories of staff, administrators, technicians, clerks and other support staff, are not covered by a staff ratio, and, in my impression, are not being reduced in the same arbitrary manner. The curious situation arises that an institution with funds available for staffing cheerfully appoints support staff but not teachers, because

for them it must meet staffing targets. Thus, no money is saved, but the shop-floor workers who are directly responsible for production and output are reduced below previously accepted standards of efficiency. There is a further irony in that support staff is already most abundant in just those departments with comfortable staff-student ratios.

In this situation I suggest we need two things: appropriate ratios for support staff, related to student numbers, not to research activity (which is not on its own what universities are for); and maximum levels of student loading beyond which we should not be expected to teach. Perhaps the Association of University Teachers, newly TUC-affiliated, could seek the advice of the Department of Public Employment in this matter?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. MADGWICK,
Department of Political Science,
University College of Wales,
Aberystwyth.

Library standards

from Mr T. H. Bowyer
Sir—In his letter (THES, May 7), Mr Lovelady remarks that "the working party's terms of reference include no mandate to consider the general relationship of library collections to university teaching and research". This is a serious defect but one which is occurring all too frequently in the current debate on university library growth.

A university library mirrors the teaching and research carried out in its parent institution. This may well involve the provision of library material for minority interests. If a university has an academic department consisting of, say, three staff and five students (a department of one professor is not altogether unknown), then surely its library has a responsibility to provide adequate, readily accessible material for their use, even though it may be relatively little used and occupy a disproportionate amount of shelf space compared with space for larger departments' requirements.

This is not the place to argue the pros and cons of small academic departments or the rights and wrongs of mergers, but it is the place to suggest that a "rationalisation" of the library infrastructure can be only partially achieved without a comparable "rationalisation" of the academic superstructure.

Whether or not such an academic "rationalisation" is desirable is a matter of high policy and high politics and makes the policy of library provision inseparable from policy of library provision for research and teaching requirements.

As Mr Lovelady rightly says, our libraries do contain dross which might usefully be relegated to the Bodleian. However, university libraries should not be regarded simply as supermarkets or warehouses. Their stocks are not just books, rather than that of pet food or chests of drawers, but the shovels of research and teaching.

Sussex recognition

from Dr Aaron Sigman
Sir—In his article on Sussex University (THES, April 30), Peter Wilby refers to me as "father of the 'do not know' subjects programme". I do not know what he means by this, but in case my readers were misled I should like to give credit where it is due.

The idea for a new School of Cognitive Studies, containing philosophy, linguistics and artificial intelligence, and possibly some other subjects, was first put forward by Professor N. Sutherland. I thought that, and still think that, his proposal was the best of all the proposals for new developments. Unfortunately, the arts and social studies committee was not prepared to allocate the

resources required for such a new school. Consequently, a group of people, including myself, put forward a much less ambitious proposal which led to the formation of the cognitive studies programme within the school of social sciences.

When Peter Wilby interviewed me I did claim responsibility for convincing the arts and social studies committees that it would be better to abandon the idea of a school as both an academic and an administrative unit, and to allow intellectually coherent interdisciplinary programmes to rise and fall within the administrative framework provided by a school. Perhaps he had this in mind when attributing paragonage to me, but I think the attribution was very misleading.

Yours sincerely,
AARON SLOMAN,
School of Social Sciences,
University of Sussex.

German academic freedom

from P. Cressey and B. Looker
Sir—May we take issue with the views expressed by your correspondent regarding the *Burgerversor* or "extremists" decree promulgated in the German Federal Republic (THES April 30). Herr Schipper seems to indicate that the present political discrimination against academic candidates and actual employees of the whole range of state employment, far from being repealed, should instead be strengthened.

He goes on to say that neither the academic community nor the left-wing parties are essentially opposed to the measures and that its terms of reference should instead be widened to a unilateral ban upon the German Communist Party.

From the outset of the present legislation, jurists, leading academics, trade unions and elements among the ruling social democrats (SPD), have opposed the decree as unconstitutional and an infringement of basic civil liberties. The practice of the decree being applied arbitrarily in many areas, based upon interviews, suspicions, guilt by association, place of residence, family record and participation in demonstrations.

Its extent has never been simply related to Communist Party membership (itself a legal and constitutional point) but has also been used to prevent or restrict the careers of SPD, trade union, youth leagues and anti-fascist associations. The proposed extension of the law will undoubtedly increase the number affected by the decree, which at present exceeds 1,500 people and is estimated to reach 500,000 individuals. The Office for the Protection of the Constitution to account for their political views.

AR-British academics should be concerned to encourage such legislation that threatens the academic freedom and democracy of West Germany.

Parental contributions

from Professor John Holloway
Sir—I believe there may be many children of middle-class or professional working-class families themselves are so much opposed to university that they can only go to university at the expense of their parents' whole idea and seek other careers. As a family man I have experienced the beginnings of this response myself, and I think that the adverse effects of the present system on our more independent-minded teenagers has been overlooked.

Even now the child cannot easily treat such payments as a loan because the growing up of brother and sisters, and the aging or possible deaths of the parents, make fully effective repayment impossible in many cases.

It should be noted, however, that if parental contributions were linked through income tax present capital transfer tax would often make it harder still to repay on the child's part.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOLLOWAY,
Queens' College,
University of Cambridge.

Alternative technology

from Mr John Mead

Sir—Professor Cotgrove's article in the *Times* (THES, April 23), about the debate on Alternative Technology (THES, April 23), has one hopes it will not remain at the level of debate but rather usher in innovations in higher education which are urgently needed.

One of his conclusions is that the achievement of some form of alternative society "for its own sake" but rather the establishment of a social and technological way of life which can be sustained, as opposed to the present Western way of life which almost certainly can not.

The polytechnics, as much as the universities, have a problem here. Most of their courses were designed in the 1950s and early 1970s, to embody the conventional wisdom of those years, when it was possible to believe, before OPEC opened up the oil fields, that the indefinite prolongation of the Western advanced technological way of life.

Now, as we are now, in 1976, in danger of doing our students the dubious service of preparing them for a world which is increasingly bears little relation to that in which they will spend most of their working lives.

Professor Cotgrove limits his article to its implications for engineers. One would like to see the implications for social scientists spelt out in equal detail. It describes engineers as among the most politically conservative of most politically conservative of the "C" they may be, but in many of their revolutionary changes to their fellows in the social sciences, the latter are of course as enthusiastically revolutionary as any could be, but in contemplating the need for technological change, many seem about as radical as the Monday Club.

The issues raised by Professor Cotgrove lead, as the *Times* has concluded, that the problems confronting Western society can best be studied most effectively in interdisciplinary courses which do not fit the traditional mould of the "C" and "S" courses as we know them. It is necessary, then, that the Government should do this, and that the Department should be limited or cut back accordingly.

Like "where studies" and courses are successful only to the extent that academic staff are convinced of their central value.

The inadequacies of departmental planning in action

In the second of three articles, Lord Crowther-Hunt argues that the long-term planning of places in advanced higher education is 'too passive, too narrowly conceived, too secret, and too little based on a comparative assessment of priorities'

Last week I was arguing that the Department of Education and Science is ill-equipped and ill-organised for long-range educational planning. I was also arguing that its concept of planning is inadequate in that it is passive and negative rather than active and positive. This week I want to show how these inadequacies are reflected in the department's planning of places in higher education.

Matching the output of teachers to the likely demand for teachers. The department has done an enormous amount of work in the past few years in developing its planning to produce the number of teachers to meet the needs of the schools in the 1980s. And it takes great pride in its achievement here—which involves planning for a reduction in the number of teacher training places from 120,000 to about 60,000 by the early 1980s.

But the whole basis on which this planning is based is, in my view, inadequate. It is based very clearly on the essentially passive nature of the department's concept of planning.

Naturally, the obvious starting point for planning the future supply of school-teachers must be estimates of the likely number of children to be taught in the schools in the 1980s. Here, it is clearly right to start with estimates of the likely number of children within the ages of compulsory school attendance.

There can be no view, be so serious a criticism of the department's work in this respect, based as it is on sophisticated projections about the likely number of children to be taught in the schools in the 1980s. But the inadequacy of the department's concept of planning becomes clear when we consider how it calculates the number of those over the age of 16 to be taught in the schools in the 1980s.

Two factors are obviously important if we are trying to estimate the likely number of the over-16s in our schools in 1986. The first is the size of the age groups concerned; we can be reasonably certain about that, since the children concerned have already been counted.

The second factor is the likely "staying-on" rate. And here the department does its best to base its future estimates on projections of past and current trends about the staying-on rate.

This is broadcast in March, 1975, a highest hypothetical projection for 1986 of 569,000 over-16s in our schools, a lowest hypothetical projection of 283,000, and a suggested planning figure of 387,000—whereas the 1972 White Paper projected a planning figure of 387,000.

Now I am not concerned whether the current planning figure of 387,000 is more likely to be right than the much higher 1972 planning figure of 543,000—even though the present planning figure involves a reduction in the estimated 1986 requirement of teachers of some 17,000 compared with the 1972 planning figure.

My essential criticism is that this concept of planning is actively based on reacting to existing trends, about the staying-on rate, about the staying-on rate now, or in the future, about something which is god-given and immutable. It is something which Government can influence upwards or downwards.

What can be done by a whole series of variables under their control, for example, by what they do about educational maintenance allowances, the crucial factor in long-range planning here should be, whether a matter of educational and national policy, it is desirable for a higher proportion of young people to stay on at school beyond the age of 16, or not.

countries, could be a useful starting point in working out a positive long-term policy here, instead of simply reacting to events.

Thus, we already know that within Britain there are significantly different staying-on rates in the different regions. In January, 1975, for example, the staying-on rate in the North Region was 18.5 per cent of the relevant age group, 17.9 per cent in the North West, and 20.4 per cent in Yorkshire and Humberside—compared with 33.2 per cent for Greater London and 27.5 per cent for Wales.

So either we are wasting natural talent in the North by accepting the low staying-on rate, or we are wasting educational resources in the South and Greater London—unless, of course, the level of natural ability is higher in the South than in the North, or we need a more lumpen and ill-educated workforce in the North than in the South.

Similarly, we know that the staying-on rates for the 16 to 18-year-old groups in other European countries already outstrip our own very substantially. So should we seek to emulate our European neighbours or not? Neither this question about international comparisons, however, or the issues I have raised about regional comparisons, enter into the departmental planning of teacher supply, which is so heavily based on reacting to trends rather than seeking to influence them.

There are a number of other questions that need to be considered if we are to have a more positive approach to the long-term planning of the number of teacher-training places in our colleges of education, and certainly before deciding to cut back teacher-training places from 120,000 to 60,000, with the consequent physical closure of a number of colleges of education, and the too considerable staff redundancies.

For example: (a) Is teacher training (or could it be with certain modifications) a better and more useful form of higher education (even if a substantial proportion of its products do not subsequently go into teaching jobs) than some of the more irrelevant courses that the department is ready to approve to fill some of the abandoned teacher-training places?

(b) Will not the cut-back in teacher-training significantly restrict the number of girls going into higher education—and is it in the national interest so to do?

(c) Will not the cut-back in teacher-training places significantly reduce the traditional avenue into higher education for boys and girls from working class homes?

(d) If we are to cut back the number of teacher-training places would it not be in everybody's interest to phase it with a commensurate expansion in the vocational training facilities we need to provide for those who leave school at 16 for full-time employment? At present only about 20 per cent of these get any further education and training through day release and so on, compared with some 80 per cent of their counterparts in Western Germany and Sweden.

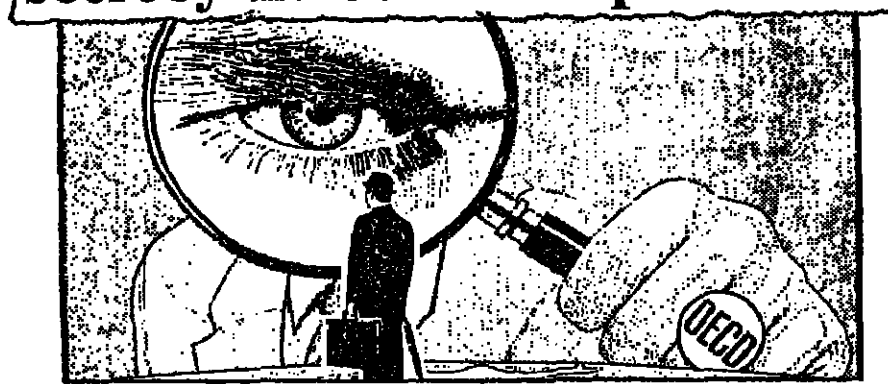
(e) What is nowadays the most efficient class size to aim at, and what are the best teaching methods to be employed, if we are to get the best "value for money" in our schools?

(f) Would it be to our advantage as a country greatly to expand the number of under-fives in nursery classes (existing plans envisage full-time provision for less than 15 per cent of the age group) at the expense of the need for the provision we make for those between five and 16, or the 16 to 18s?

But such issues have not received any significant attention, although this is, perhaps, hardly surprising when the Department's planning operation is entirely and narrowly concerned with trying to match the output of teachers to the likely number of children to be taught. And even within that narrow confine, the operation restricts itself still further simply to reacting to current trends rather than seeking to influence at least some of them.

Planning the Provision of Places in Higher Education. Long-term planning designed to produce the "right" number of places in the advanced sector of higher education is perhaps even more important than any other single

'Remote' DES condemned for secrecy in OECD report



May 1975: criticism from OECD

aspect of the department's work. For one thing, those places are extremely expensive, very much more expensive than places in the schools.

Just over half our education expenditure of nearly £6,000m a year goes to the schools, while about one-third goes on the very much smaller number of individuals in full-time advanced higher education research.

Secondly, this is the area which supplies the highly trained and highly educated manpower which is so obviously crucial to the country's social, cultural and economic prosperity. Yet it is here, it seems to me, that the department's planning is at its worst, and fully merits the harsh criticisms which the report of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development directed at this part of its activities.

In the department's planning of higher education places, its essentially passive concept of planning comes out very clearly. Here, for example, the department sees its job as "identifying existing trends" and then seeking to cater for them as best it can.

The OECD report noted that as far as students in higher education are concerned, the department has gradually cut back its estimates of the number of places required by 1981 in our universities and polytechnics from 835,000 to 750,000—and then last year to 640,000 (and in the most recent White Paper on Public Expenditure the figure is put at 600,000).

It notes that the department is planning for a pretty even split of these numbers between the university sector on the one hand, and the polytechnic and public sector on the other.

Now, these departmental estimates of the total number of places needed are based on the department's estimates of likely student demand, thus implementing the Robbins principle of providing enough places in higher education for those qualified and willing to take them up.

So here departmental planning is based on elaborate calculations and projections about the numbers in the different relevant age groups and estimates, in the light of current and recent trends, of those who will be "qualified" for higher education places in 1981 and willing to take them up. Essentially, therefore, the basis of planning is making forecasts about likely "natural demand".

What the department fails to recognize is that there is no such thing as a "natural demand"—or, more precisely, that "natural demand" can be moved substantially upwards or downwards by various actions and influences very much under the Government's control.

For example, the relationship at any given time between student grants, the cost of living, and the wages and salaries of 18 to 20-year-olds in full-time employment, clearly has an impact on the likely demand for places in full-time higher education. Doubling the level of the student grant, for example, would be likely to increase student demand, just as replacing the existing system of student support by a paymaster's loan scheme would be likely to decrease demand.

So if the Government decides as a matter of policy that it wants to achieve a significant increase in demand for places in higher education, then it can influence events accordingly—just as it can achieve a substantial reduction of demand and provision if it wants to.

Clearly, therefore, an essential ingredient in planning the number of places in higher education in the future should be a policy decision on the proportion of the relevant age groups for which more places should be provided. And an plan on these sorts of trends inevitably involves considering a whole range of problems together which the department either neglects completely or considers piecemeal.

For example, more positive planning of this kind means that we need to consider questions such as: the proportion of the relevant age groups for which other major industrial countries will be providing advanced educational opportunities and the overall likely demand of industry and the professions for highly trained and highly educated manpower.

We should also consider the proportions of the relevant age groups who are likely

to have the capacity to benefit from, and successfully cope with, the forms of higher education which are going to be provided (and what those forms should be).

Then there are priority questions such as whether more resources should go to increasing the proportion of the 16 to 22-year-olds in full-time advanced higher education at the expense, say, of the resources to be made available for research, or for further vocational training for the 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time employment, or for recurrent education for adult students, and so on. In other words, it simply will not do to plan our provision of places in higher education on estimates of so-called "natural demand".

A further major criticism of the department's planning of higher education is also echoed in the OECD report. This is the point to which I have already referred, namely the fact that the department is planning for a pretty even split between the university sector and the public sector in the number of higher education places to be provided.

Here the report comments simply and pointedly: "There appears in this even split in higher education between the university and the polytechnic sectors more of elegance and formal parity than of rational estimation of social demand or of long-term projections for highly qualified personnel in the state, the economy and society. The reasons given to us include the apparent coincidence of organic expansion estimates and the wishes of existing universities."

Clearly, however, any positive long-term planning for the apportionment of students between the two sides of the binary line (and the department does not consider the justification for the binary system) must be based on such questions as the comparative cost on each side of the line of developing and running institutions to cope with whatever expansion of numbers the Government decides to provide for.

It must also be based on the relative quality of their respective end-products, and an assessment of the need for the different sorts of education they provide—if, in fact, they provide significantly different kinds of education.

Concepts of "elegance and formal parity" are not enough. And if the department's policy of building up the polytechnics is based on more than concepts of "elegance and formal parity"—perhaps on the belief that somehow or other the polytechnics are making, or can make, a more relevant contribution (and more economically) to the needs of the country than the universities are making or can make—then this needs to be publicly proclaimed, so that it can be publicly discussed and challenged.

Furthermore, long-term policies for apportioning students between the universities and the polytechnics must be the subject of detailed discussions with those on both sides of the binary line before decisions are taken. And to make such meaningful discussion possible, the Department must pay more information than it was ready to reveal during the 1970s.

Finally, in its long-term planning of student numbers and how they should be distributed between the different types of institution, the Department must pay heed to another of the OECD's reports' pertinent criticisms.

For, besides being highly critical of the essentially passive nature of the Department's planning, it was also critical of the fact that in its planning the "role of the educational system is not reviewed or related to the functions of different departments". "In other words the Department's educational planning does not attempt to consider the role of education in relation to the major 'non-educational' problems the Government and the country are facing."

Indeed, the education services are identified institutionally as equated with the services provided by DES, in spite of the fact that the branches of this service cannot be taken as a static and stable phenomena". Planning the long-term provision of advanced higher education, then, is an urgent need of rational. At present it is too passive, too narrowly conceived, too secret, and too little based on a comparative assessment of priorities. The necessary spring-planning will have to start with the DES itself.

Next week Lord Crowther-Hunt will discuss manpower planning, the universities and the University Grants Committee.

Social history of social groups

French Society 1789-1970

by Georges Dupeux

Methuen, £7.50 and £3.90
ISBN 0 415 65250 6 and 84410 3

G. M. Trevelyan said that social history was history with the politics left out. That is no longer a satisfactory definition. Perhaps an alternative one might be history with the individual left out. I do not put this forward as a slogan, nor would this be a form of history I should like to write, but it may be a description of what some people are trying to achieve. They could make no less a man than Tocqueville one of their masters, for it was not concerned with individuals but only with classes; and in his *Ancien Régime* he showed how that could be done with considerable brilliance.

This redefinition is suggested by the appearance of a translation of Georges Dupeux's *La France 1789-1970*. The publishers announce it as "a social history of a rather novel kind". I want to comment on this claim not because I think it worth quarrelling over an advertising blurb, for one can more judge a book by its blurb than one can a dog by the sound of its bark; nor because I wish to denigrate the book, for, on the contrary, I commend it as the work of a person, learned and interesting. But the claim raises the question of what social history is and how it is developing.

Professor Dupeux has clear ideas on this subject. He does not consider that the description of daily life "is a sufficiently profound or analytical activity, capable of revealing the springs of action, the realities behind the appearances. He is not anxious, either, to see history in terms of preconceived theories or models, which he regards more as barriers that separate the reader from contact with the past, than as sources of illumination. Instead he has attempted to write about France in terms, not quite as Tocqueville said, of classes, but of "groups".

Social history, thus, for him, is the history of social groups. But when one examines this "methodological" idea more closely, one discovers that the aim is not to see up social history as an autonomous subject. It is noteworthy that social historians have not yet established themselves as a separate species: as a profession that requires special training or methods. There are many universities with professors of history on the one hand, and professors of economic history on the other, but there are few historians which have side by side with these, and in addition to them, a professor of social history. Economic history, it is accepted, is not a leisure pastime for the unqualified amateur. Is social history, however, simply something that all his-



The Boulevard, Paris 1889 painted by Jean Béraud.

torians engage in, more or less, and often without knowing it? The suggestion that social history is history with the individual left out could, theoretically, distinguish economic history from other forms of history. The main preoccupation which is "quantitative" and attempts to reduce the past to a series of comparable and measurable facts, so that it can summarize its conclusions in a graph, it is also concerned with entrepreneurs, with inventors and with speculators who remain unique and individual despite all the generalizations that are made about them. Political history, for its part, will never lose its biographical bias.

But social history has not won its autonomy, as being different in kind from these other types of history, because it is still dominated by them in its directing ideas. This comes out in a particularly interesting way in Dupeux's book. The two themes running through it are power and wealth. Now power has traditionally been above all the subject-matter of political history, and wealth is of course the province of economic history.

When Dupeux goes into the question of who dominates whom, he has interesting things to say; he realises, for example, that domination need not extend equally over all aspects of life, and he rightly says that "the grande bourgeoisie did not have the same control over society as it had over the economy". But he does not develop this much, and since he has exactly how power was distributed is inevitably partial. On the other hand, when he discusses social

groups, he says these must be classified "according to the position they occupy in the production process and in the social division of labour". How a man earns his living is the decisive fact. The main preoccupation of people, in this view, is to improve their social position and to earn more money. It comes down to economics. By talking about groups rather than about classes, Dupeux allows himself greater scope to encompass the changing relations within it. But by insisting on confining himself to occupational or economic groups, he prevents himself from bringing out the significance of all the other kinds of groupings into which society was divided. His kind of social history thus remains a commentary rather than an explanation.

Dupeux sees that this is not enough, and he adds that "the description of social evolution is still far from an understanding of the 'motive forces'". He sees these in "collective psychology". He considers conditions of poor living standards and of being exploited economically, together with the growing awareness by ordinary people of their intellectual and technical abilities, following the spread of education, as important elements in this psychological change. He concludes that the decisive influence was really the evolution moved at a speed that varied with technical progress. He even argues (rather surprisingly) that property was a social tension. This is of course, not psychology, but economics; if it is "collective psychology", then it is

clearly a science in too primitive a state to yield such important conclusions.

Dupeux in fact argues against himself. While emphasizing technical change he also shows how limited this was in the France he describes. He outlines the chapter covering the years 1789-1870 (political dates, it will be noticed). He admits that the proportion of people engaged in industrial activity was (in 1851) still only 25 per cent. In 1936 it was still only 30 per cent. It is true that after the Commune the peasants no longer comprised over 50 per cent of the active population.

However, the "rising class" was not that of the workers, but those in the tertiary sector, that is to say clerks, shop assistants and bureaucrats—people who do not produce anything physical, but who accounted for 22 per cent of the active population in 1851, and they increased steadily, uninterruptedly, reaching 33 per cent in 1936 and 44 per cent in 1968. The great change was from manual to clerical labour, from the farm and workshop to the office. Here again social history is the slave of a legacy. The growth of trade unions has, for political reasons, attracted a great deal of attention. Clerks cannot be written about in terms of their unions, even when they have not participated in revolutions or famines, which can provide a framework for their history. They need, to be dealt with through a different approach, which involves studying not institutions or catastrophes, but largely alien ambitions, which take one out of the

realm of either economic or political history. It is a simple form, to the satisfaction of which the author has clearly formulated. The book is a welcome addition to the French version of the history of the family.

If social history is to be original and independent, it must be able to illuminate the understanding of the past. It will first need a "psychological" kind of history, one on the consumption of goods and on the consumption of goods and on attitudes. It will have to improve their social position and to earn more money. It comes down to economics. By talking about groups rather than about classes, Dupeux allows himself greater scope to encompass the changing relations within it. But by insisting on confining himself to occupational or economic groups, he prevents himself from bringing out the significance of all the other kinds of groupings into which society was divided. His kind of social history thus remains a commentary rather than an explanation.

In Timpanaro's book materialism is the "acknowledgment of the priority of nature over mind", or if you like, of the physical level over the biological level, and of the biological level over the socioeconomic and cultural level; both in this sense of chronological priority (the very long time which supervened before life appeared on earth, and between the origin of life and the origin of man), and in the sense of the causation which nature still exercises over man and will continue to exercise at least for the foreseeable future.

If this strikes the reader as a somewhat expanded sense of materialism, he may be assured that I agree. By the definition offered, the anti-materialist must believe that man (or life) was on earth from the beginning—God need not enter the picture—or that man is not conditioned by "nature": pre-conditioned, his physical make-up and environment. In other words the

soon after generalised belief in the whole of France was that this has now been established. It is said that it has been for the English people, but I am not sure. There is something about this far as translations of these are concerned, for it took years for Braudel's message to come into England, and it was possible only by a series of French government bellowing in spending to propagate the product of culture.

Dupeux's book was worth translating, and it is found valuable both for its tables, graphs and charts, and for its suggestions. The last section on immortality is perhaps less successful in detail in that it raises some of the most difficult problems of the philosophy of mind in a necessarily cursory way. He disposes rather too briskly of some formidable opponents (Schlick, Ducasse, Quinton and Geras) on the question of the logical possibility of human immortality and the meaningfulness of statements about it. But the final chapter is a splendid declaration of Tolstoy's "pre-emptive" philosophy, a salutary lesson for intellectuals who believe that being a good imaginative writer guarantees the value or even the sense of "philosophical" messages that the writer may try to convey. "What is the meaning of life?" is a question that is difficult to get a hearing on these important topics unless a philosopher makes himself heard with a certain force, and clearly, Flew certainly does this; and he has a gift of readability which is rare among contemporary philosophers. His first section on God is the most successful. Flew, per se, puts the onus of proof on the theologians, clarifies the real nature of agnosticism and decisively refutes the ad hominem dishonest making of judgements on pieces of evidence. He is a lively and a good writer, though sometimes he seems to go on for too long at the top of his voice. But his Christian thinking has become sloppy and amorphous that it is difficult to get a hearing on these important topics unless a philosopher makes himself heard with a certain force, and clearly, Flew certainly does this; and he has a gift of readability which is rare among contemporary philosophers.

Every convincing religiously in use a respondent, explanatory expression, the acquittal of many artists. This is never more to be seen. And it is only to be seen that, among the legends now being summoned up, the work of the artist is found, upon reflection, to be worthy of recall.

William

Directive to the brethren

anti-materialist must be little short of a complete ass.

The fact seems not to worry the author for he is quite disposed to believe that he has very stupid opponents. The reasoning leads to this: "One then lapses back into the sophistry of those who deny... (sic) the physical character of digestion." There may be irony here but nothing in the general tenor of the discussion merits such an assumption. Timpanaro apparently believes that there are individuals who fail to recognize the role which our bodies play (twist ingestion and excretion).

The author's readiness to believe in the stupidity of his opponents is matched by his willingness to enlist truisms in the battle against them. We are told that the "uncritical adoption of linguistics as the model for other human sciences... can lead to mistaken or deceptive results". And we are assured that "communism does not imply, in and of itself a decline in the level of the cultural level of man". The reason is that "a phenomenon like old age... arose and continues to persist on the biological level".

Apart from the failure to state precise arguments, the definition of the crude caricature of opposing positions and the pompous recital of truisms, this book is marked by an outrageous moralism. "It is not conceivable that inhumanism and Cartesian dualism, which are too ancient for bourgeois thought itself, could become philosophically fashionable." The condescending dogmatism which underlies a remark like this appears elsewhere in comments on unwarranted concessions and undue fidelity and in constant reminders about what should not be forgotten, what it is necessary to note and what it is too simplistic to say. Sometimes it is linked with the assertion of tautologies to produce truly remarkable results. "It is certainly necessary to warn that the dependence of the superstructure on the structure must not be conceived in a simplistic way."

On Materialism is not, by any criterion, a piece of philosophical argument. What it most resembles—and the very style of nomenclature suggests the comparison—is a papal encyclical: a directive to the brethren, issued in assurance of infallibility, on the nature of the straight and narrow path. One can only hope, so far as Timpanaro is concerned, that the reform, be it revision or not, is just around the corner.

Philip Pettit

God, freedom and immortality

The Presumption of Atheism and Other Essays

by Antony Flew

E. Bloch, £7.00 and £3.50
ISBN 0 301 75016 5 and 75017 3

Professor Flew's new book consists of a dozen essays on the classic themes of God, freedom and immortality. Nearly all of the essays have appeared before, but most of them are important enough to deserve a new edition. This is especially so in the case of the essay on the logical possibility of human immortality and the meaningfulness of statements about it. But the final chapter is a splendid declaration of Tolstoy's "pre-emptive" philosophy, a salutary lesson for intellectuals who believe that being a good imaginative writer guarantees the value or even the sense of "philosophical" messages that the writer may try to convey. "What is the meaning of life?" is a question that is difficult to get a hearing on these important topics unless a philosopher makes himself heard with a certain force, and clearly, Flew certainly does this; and he has a gift of readability which is rare among contemporary philosophers.

Every convincing religiously in use a respondent, explanatory expression, the acquittal of many artists. This is never more to be seen. And it is only to be seen that, among the legends now being summoned up, the work of the artist is found, upon reflection, to be worthy of recall.

William

Sources for the history of education

Sources for the History of Education is an important and widely used reference work in its field. A supplement to that work has just been published; it is a completely new work, listing additional holdings of the libraries of institutes and schools of education and cer-

Appeal to memory

Personal Identity
edited by John Perry
University of California Press,
£8.15
ISBN 0 520 02791 4

That the concept of a person cannot be identified with the concept of a living human body is a view that has long been shared by defenders of otherwise strikingly different theories. But if the two concepts are distinct, how exactly are they related? Are persons in some sense non-physical? And, in the question beloved of philosophers, what criteria of identity are there for such creatures?

It is these problems which are tackled in John Perry's anthology *Personal Identity*. The collection includes familiar material by Locke, Hume, Butler and Reid, in addition to modern articles by Grice, Shoemaker, Williams and others. Perry supplies an introduction and a paper of his own.

Two related faults vitiate what is in many ways a useful collection: first, it is lop-sided, and second the material is not adequately integrated. It is lop-sided in the sense that nearly two-thirds of the book is concerned with versions and criticisms of the Lockean attempt to frame criteria of personal identity in terms of memory. Although the appeal to memory has of course been important in both classical and modern discussions, it really does not warrant that much space, if the cost is that other elements in the problem of personal identity are ignored. It is difficult, for example, to see what justification there is for including both Quinton on "The Soul" and H. P. Grice on "Personal Identity". The differences between them are not sufficiently marked to justify both

Nicholas Everitt

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Before the Industrial Revolution
European society and economy 1000-1700

CARLO CIPOLLA

The purpose of this book is to provide an overall view of pre-industrial Europe, and in particular a fresh interpretation of the characteristics and evolution of its economy and society. The documentation of these developments is based upon an analytical structure of economic theory that gives the book great coherence and clarity. Professor Cipolla shows the student of economics how much the historical record can illuminate the basic concepts of modern economic analysis, while enabling the student of history to bring an analytic framework to the data of the past. Finally, the author shows the complexity of the factors at play in the development of society and emphasizes the subtle but substantial role of the cultural environment and of human motivation.

University Paperback £2.90

Atmosphere, Weather and Climate
Third Edition

R. G. BARRY AND R. J. CHORLEY

The continued success of the second edition of this book, together with the recent advances in meteorology and climatology, have encouraged the authors to make further substantial revisions. For this third edition forty new or revised figures and plates have been included as well as up-to-date references and specimen problems. The new material includes major revision and additions to the text.

University Paperback £2.90

Computer and Statistical Techniques for Planners

RICHARD S. BAXTER

Quantitative techniques are increasingly being applied by planners in their decision making processes, and these techniques commonly need a computer solution. This book provides an idea of how these planners who are becoming involved with information and data processing systems.

A practical and useful feature of this book is that it contains many computer software listings to support a number of statistical and data manipulation applications. A reference list is appended to each chapter.

University Paperback £5.95

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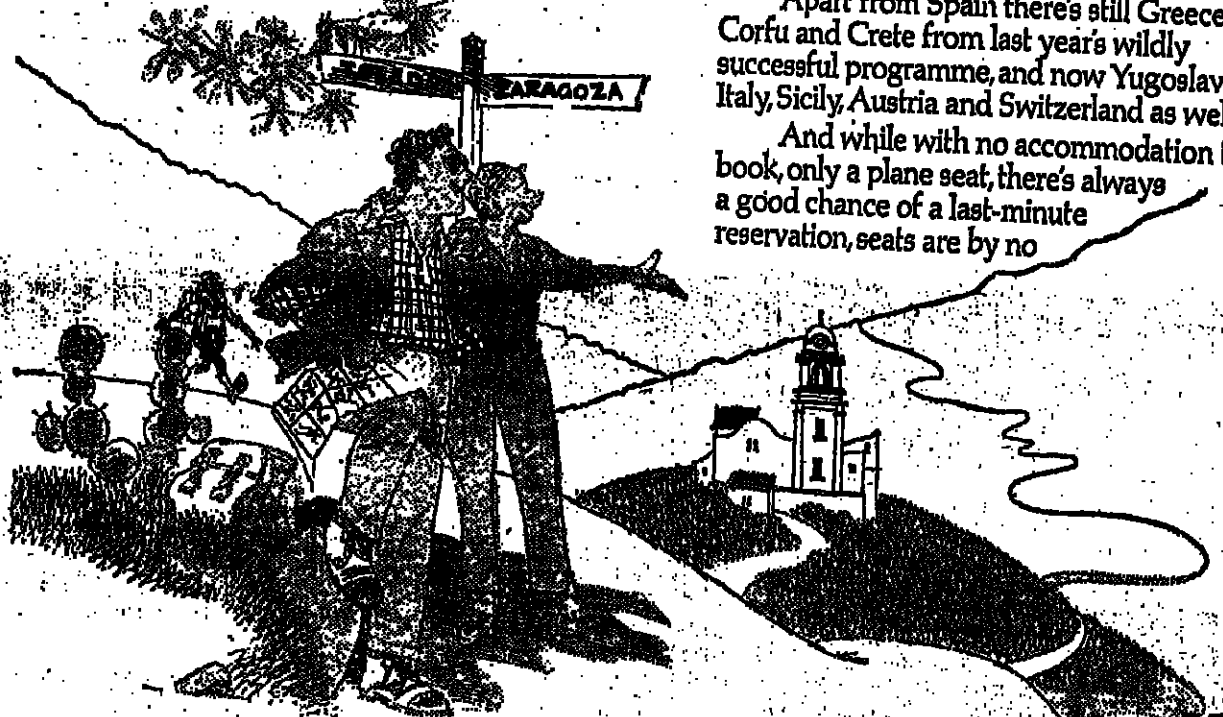
And while with no accommodation to book, only a plane seat, there's always a good chance of a last-minute reservation, seats are by no

means unlimited and you'd be wise to book up before too many others cotton on.

Your nearest travel agent or Spanish Tourist Office has the leaflets, or ring one of the numbers below



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Luton/Gatwick	Austria/Switzerland	01-388 2399
Manchester	Majorca/Ibiza, Italy/Yugoslavia	061-633 0943
Manchester	All others	061-633 0943
Cardiff	Spain/Balearics	0222-297974
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Birmingham	Spain/Balearics	021-2346603
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UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI KENYA

Applications are invited for the following posts in the Faculty of Commerce:

1. DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCE

(a) Professor

Applicants should preferably have a Doctoral Degree (or its equivalent) followed by professional qualifications and research experience. They should be specialized in at least one of the following areas: Quantitative Analysis for Administrative Decisions, Applied Statistics, Systems Analysis, and Computer Science. The appointee will be expected to teach undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

(b) Senior Lecturer

Applicants for this post should have a Masters Degree and experience in teaching as well as research. They should be specialized in at least one of the following areas: Quantitative Analysis for Administrative Decisions, Applied Statistics, Systems Analysis, and Computer Science. The appointee will be expected to teach undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It is possible that one of these posts will be filled by a home-based post appointee already advertised by the University of Sussex.

2. DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

(a) Professor

Applicants should be appropriately qualified academically and professionally, with the experience of a related Social Science degree. They should be specialized in at least one of the following areas: Quantitative Analysis for Administrative Decisions, Applied Statistics, Systems Analysis, and Computer Science. The appointee will be expected to teach undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It is possible that one of these posts will be filled by a home-based post appointee already advertised by the University of Lancaster.

(b) Associate Professor

Applicants should have appropriate academic and professional qualifications, with significant research achievement, and teaching experience at postgraduate level. The main emphasis of the duties attending this appointment will be the promotion of research in the Department both within an existing Master's degree which incorporates research, and by the organization of staff and postgraduate seminars as an integral through which research ideas can be discussed and developed, and by which the staff and postgraduate community. The post will carry a teaching commitment probably on post-graduate courses.

Senior Lecturer

Applicants should have good academic and, preferably, professional qualifications in accounting. Additionally, significant teaching experience at University level is required. It is possible that one of these posts will be filled by a home-based post appointee already advertised by the University of Lancaster.

3. DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Senior Lecturer (3 posts)

Applicants should have at least a Masters Degree in Business Administration, Management or a related Social Science degree. They should have considerable teaching and research experience in addition. The appointees will be expected to teach at the undergraduate and postgraduate level and have the capacity to give academic and research leadership in some of the following areas: Personnel Administration, Labour Relations/Economics, International Business, Organization Theory and Behaviour, Marketing and Public Enterprise Management. It is possible that one of these posts will be filled by a home-based post appointee already advertised by the University of Edinburgh. Salary: £6,000-£6,120 p.a. Senior Lecturer £6,120-£6,300 p.a. (K1-K10 range). The British Government may supplement salary in £2,718 p.a. (starting) for single appointees (supplements are usually reviewed annually normally free of all tax) and provide children's allowances; various allowances. Detailed applications (2 copies) including curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees should be sent by airmail (training) University of Nairobi, PO Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya. Applicants resident in the UK should send 1 copy by airmail to the Registrar, University of Nairobi, PO Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya. Further particulars may be obtained from either address.

ULSTER THE NEW UNIVERSITY

School of Biological and Environmental Studies

Lecturer in Geography

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Geography from 1st October, 1976. The person appointed will be required to lecture on QUANTIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION OF STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES TO GEOGRAPHY. A special interest in the broad field of human geography is also necessary. Salary: £8,000-£8,500 p.a. (1976-77) £8,500-£9,000 p.a. (1977-78). Appointment will normally be made within the first three months of the year.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Registrar, The New University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland (quoting Ref: 10/40) to whom applications, including the names and addresses of three referees should be sent not later than 4th June, 1976.

The British Council

Invites applications for the following posts:—

Instructors in English for Special Purposes (Kuwait)

English Language Centre, University of Kuwait
To teach English Language and to assist in development of materials, testing and curriculum planning. Graduates with MA and 3 years' experience or Diploma and 5 years' experience in TEFL or Applied Linguistics. Single teachers or married couples without children.
Salary: KD 2040 pa (£3,643 at KD .56=£1) plus KD 90 pa for each year of TEFL experience. No local taxation. Benefits: special allowance 50% of basic salary; COLA; housing and car allowances. One-year contract, renewable. 76 AU 67-78

Lecturers in English (Saudi Arabia)

Faculty of Medicine, University of Riyadh
Candidates (2 male, 2 female) must have a degree and a diploma or experience in TEFL.
Salary: Saudi Riyals 38,880 pa minimum (£5,760 at current rate). No local tax. Benefits: free accommodation. One-year contract, renewable. 76 AU 24-27

Lector in English (Yugoslavia)

Faculty of Economics and Commerce, University of Maribor
Graduates with several years' experience in commerce or industry and some TEFL experience.
Salary: 6,000 New Dinars minimum per month, plus sterling subsidy of £1,191 pa paid in Britain. Benefits: medical scheme; employers' portion of superannuation. One-year contract, renewable. 76 SU 66

Lecturers in Chemistry (Iran)

Abadan Institute of Technology
Lecturer in Organic Chemistry and Organic Spectroscopy
Lecturer in Analytical and General Chemistry
Salary: £6,289-£6,623 pa approx.
Benefits: return passage for family; accommodation at nominal rent; baggage allowance; free medical services. Two-year contract, renewable. 76 HO 73-74

Return fares are paid. Local contracts are guaranteed by the British Council.
Please write, briefly stating qualifications and length of appropriate experience; quoting relevant reference number and title of post for further details and an application form to The British Council (Appointments), 65 Davies Street, London W1V 2AA.

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Applications are invited for the following posts on the academic staff of the University:

LECTURER IN ENGLISH (Reference 1/106/3131). An interest in the 19th century and particularly the Romantic Revival would be an advantage.

LECTURER IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (Reference 1/106/3132) Both commencing salaries will be within the first four points (£3,174-£3,786) of the Lecturers' Scale 13,174-£5,446.

The appointments will be subject to a probationary period of normally three years with the prospect of permanency thereafter.

TUTOR in the Department of Economic History (Reference 1/106/7110). Preference to candidates specialising in both British economic and social history since 1760.

3 TUTORS in the Department of History (Reference 1/106/7111). Preference to candidates completing a post-graduate degree and specialising in British and European history before 1600. At least one appointment will be made to a pre-1400 specialist.

Tenure for one year at salary of £2,766 per annum. All posts tenable from 1st October 1976.

Further particulars from the Administrative Officer (Staffing), University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QJ, to whom applications (8 copies Lecturers 3 copies Tutors; overseas candidates 1 copy) should be sent by 4th June 1976.

University of London Goldsmiths' College

New Cross, London, SE14 6NW

Applications are invited for the post of

Deputy Warden of Goldsmiths' College

which will become vacant at the end of the current session on the retirement of the present holder. The Warden, Dr. Richard Hoggart, is the academic and administrative head of the College, responsible to the College Delegacy which is appointed by the Senate of the University of London. The Deputy Warden assists the Warden in carrying out his academic and administrative duties; he is a member of the Delegacy, Deputy Chairman of the Academic Board and Chairman of important academic committees of the Board; he will take responsibility for such academic and administrative duties as are delegated to him by the Warden and will act for the Warden in his absence.

The College consists of five Schools—Adult and Social Studies, Art and Design, Education, Humanities and Performing Arts, and Science and Mathematics. From 1st September, 1976, there will be some 3,000 full-time and 4,000 part-time students taking a wide range of courses, including degree courses in Arts, Science, the Social Sciences, Music, Education and Fine Art. There are considerable opportunities for post-graduate study, whether by thesis or by course-work, leading to higher degrees, certificates or diplomas. Post-graduate work is to be particularly developed. The Delegacy is looking for a candidate of academic distinction and proved administrative ability relevant to the developing Higher Education and University Institution. The person appointed should take up the post on 1st September, 1976, or as soon as possible thereafter. The salary of the Deputy Warden is at present under review but will not be less than £10,740 per annum including London Allowance, with normal superannuation provision.

Further particulars of the College and the post can be obtained on written request to the Personnel Officer, to whom applications (3 copies) with the names of three referees, should be sent as soon as possible and, in any case, not later than 31st May, 1976.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES—TRINIDAD

Applications are invited for the following vacancies:

1. Sociology

One post of Professor/Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology.

2. Education

One post of Research Fellow/Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in the School of Education. Duties include curriculum research with special reference to Teachers' Colleges and teaching in established programmes in School of Education.

3. History

One post of Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in the Department of History. Appointees should be qualified to teach and organise courses in pre-history and the development of early civilisations; history of science and technology; comparative religion and modern history.

Salary scales: £3,174-£5,446 p.a. (K1-K10 range). The British Government may supplement salary in £2,718 p.a. (starting) for single appointees (supplements are usually reviewed annually normally free of all tax) and provide children's allowances; various allowances. Detailed applications (2 copies) including curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees should be sent by airmail (training) University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad.

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University of Wales

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